

know about the consequences caused by various types of pollutants.

The emissions from 98 Tynda heating plants, for instance, contain harmful gases, heavy metals, and small coal particles. All these cause serious diseases, including cancer. We should also remember the very poor hygienic conditions in the temporary settlements where the builders live. The chairman of the municipal executive committee said at a public meeting that pollution was the reason for serious liver diseases like hepatitis. It was the gross violation of hygienic standards that led to pollution of the city's water supply by run-off water and caused an outbreak of meningitis in Tynda this summer.

The organizations which regulate environmental conditions do not always inform the population about the complexity of the ecological balance. Unfortunately, there are not only 'court' scientific advisors, but also 'court' doctors and state inspectors responsible for the water supply. There is only one solution to this: to exert public pressure on these inspectors and to ensure that reliable information about environmental pollution is available to everyone.

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13 Oct 1988  
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#### An Ecology Centre in Nadym

The first all-union "Oil and Gas Ecology" conference closed with a noteworthy event: the foundations were laid here for an ecology centre.