

## MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING

### Charges of Window Dressing in Promoting the Steam Heat Crude Oil Extraction Technique in Komi Republic

A brief report by an oil industry engineer from Ukhta, V. Timofeev, published in our paper a year ago under the title Window Dressing, provoked such a voluminous official correspondence that it could fill an entire type page. And the longer the replies of the leaders of the former Ministry of the Oil Industry, the interdepartmental scientific and technical committee "Nefteotdacha" and the scientific and production association "Soyuztermneft'", the further away we are from the truth. Their apologetic verbosity barely disguises their desire to present the situation in more attractive colors. Let us compare the essence of their replies with reality.

Many years ago, the then general director of the "Komineft'" Association, Anatolii Stepanovich Gumenyuk, told me about plans to transfer to the Usinsk heavy oil deposits the experience gained in heating the petroliferous stratum at Yarega. According to him, the enormous area of the deposit ought to be covered with a network of powerful steam generator stations. It was suggested that under the influence of high-temperature steam, the oil would lose its viscosity and, as they say, flow as a river.

But, as you know, there is a long way between an idea and its realization. Moreover, nowhere in the world was steam ever fed to a depth of one and half kilometers. Therefore, an experimental sector to test the steam heat effect was established at the Usa river under the sponsorship of the scientific and production association