

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### Earthquakes in northern Tyumen' ....a fact calling for conclusions

Recently, Nefteyugansk dwellers of the upper stories of apartment houses built from precast concrete panels began noticing continuous rocking motions with a slight tinkling of glasses. Perhaps from the KrAZ heavy trucks rumbling by in the street below? But when investigators found cracks in the slabs under the foundations of one of the 19 buildings, it became clear that this was something far more serious. Research officers of the Western Siberia Scientific Research Institute of Geological Exploration (ZapSib NIIGNI) looked into the situation. This is what they found.

Seismically, Nefteyugansk, like the whole of Western Siberia, is a calm, safe zone. Or at least it was until recently. Then, suddenly, earthquakes began. At Nefteyugansk the tremors had several foci. Their intensity was from 3 to 4 on the Richter scale along the shore of the Ob' River in the Yugansk district (within a radius of 1,000 to 1,200 metres). And here, man himself is the guilty party! This was the conclusion arrived at by I. Nesterov, Director of ZapSibNIIGNI, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences USSR and a Lenin Prize winner, and A. Reznik, an Institute Research Officer.

Massive earthmoving when the city was laid out, the recovery of fresh groundwater and oil, and finally, the vibration from driving sheet piles - all