

PULP AND PAPER

Lake Onega Still Threatened by Kondopoga Pollution

An article appearing in 'Pravda' on June 16 of this year harshly condemned the ever-increasing pollution in Lake Onega caused by the effluent from the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combine. The article was signed by Yu. Goncharov, a papermachine operator and representative on the USSR Supreme Soviet, S. Mamzelev, the Combine's Deputy Chief Engineer for Environmental Protection, and V. Gerasimov, the Combine's CPSU Committee Secretary. They write that the biological purification facilities built in 1983 with a production capacity of 180,000 cubic meters per 24 hours, cannot fully handle effluent purification. The higher authorities have set a pulp production plan for the Combine that exceeds the annual design capacity by 15,000 tonnes. This has had a negative impact on the operation of the purification facilities.

"The industry executives have forgotten that they selected our Combine to be a headquarters enterprise operating with waste-free technology. The plan was to use the activated sludge obtained as a by-product of the biological purification of the industrial effluent, as a feed supplement for farm animals. This is why millions of roubles were spent on building a drying shop in the purification facility complex." Today, however, this shop is idle since it can't produce the feed supplement when the facilities are overloaded.

Every day thousands of tonnes of harmful organic compounds, which could be used to make protein feed for cattle, are dumped into the lake.