

The Taimyr Okrug Committee of the CPSU, the Executive Committee of the Okrug Soviet of People's Deputies and the editorial office of "Sovetskii Taimyr" are being besieged by letters, telephone calls and people... The public is demanding that the scheduled November entry of the "Taimyr" into Yenisei waters be called off. Northerners are questioning the advisability of using such a powerful icebreaker, with an on-board nuclear reactor, on this river.

What concerns them most of all? To begin with, where are the safety guarantees for the peninsula's inhabitants and fragile environment? Secondly, there is the question of radiation monitoring. Thirdly, what effect will the "Taimyr" have on the Yenisei's fish stocks and harbour quays? And lastly, how will a transportation link be provided between settlements situated on different sides of the river?

Undoubtedly, serious questions have been raised. Public opinion cannot be ignored. Especially since the incident involving the nuclear-powered lash-carrier "Sevmorput," which for a long time could not call at far eastern ports, is on everyone's mind. Many are frightened by the prospect of living next door to a functioning reactor.

Opponents of the "Taimyr" are not even convinced by the fact that for three decades nuclear-powered icebreakers have been regularly making calls at the port of the Dikson settlement, which lies within the autonomous okrug. Even children have grown accustomed to them here.

"We even ran into public opposition in Tallinn, where we had gone from Leningrad to do special work unrelated to the reactor," comments A.