

We have to pay urgent attention to environmental problems. Each year, for example, huge masses of wood wastes build up in the Kama reservoir and in local river mouths. These wastes impede local shipping operations and pollute the water. Where do these mounds of rubbish come from?

V. Turitsyn, the Regional Inspector from the "Kamuralrybovod" (Kama and Ural Water and Fisheries) Association describes the "Kungurskaya Kur'ya" raft construction point at the Pyatigorsk logging enterprise: "there is a rampart five to six metres high made out of wastes tossed out from the cross-cutting bridge onto the ice. At the end of the bridge is a burial mound of log trimmings, chip and saw dust. A bulldozer, groaning under the load, arranges this rubbish into piles and pushes them out on the ice as far away from shore as it can. This is the depressing scene you can find along the Verkhnyaya Staritsa river."

How are the rafts put together at the Seyvinskiy logging enterprise, run by the "Permlеспrom" Association? Just look at what is sticking out from the bundles and sections! The float workers won't accept them like this so the hammers and saws have to be put to work. The branches are cut off and the ends are evened. The cuttings and bits of logs are left right there near the raft or even on top of it. The time comes when the raft is towed out onto the Volga. Then a large wave comes along and pushes the short logs, bolts and branches into the water.

The above examples are not exceptional cases, unfortunately. We've often heard the cries urging us to put an end to wastefulness and poor management but time has passed and nothing has changed.