

Engineering. The main industrial plants for the production of technology for the pulp-and-paper industry are concentrated in Petrozavodsk, Izhevsk, and Dnepropetrovsk, where there are large-scale production complexes. Although the first two of them were created specifically for the pulp-and-paper industry, the volume of technology manufactured for the industry has decreased year by year.

Today, at least 50% of their capacities are taken up with other types of production. Neither the State Planning Commission nor the State Supply Department has complied with the directives issued by the USSR Council of Ministers to correct this distortion in production. All this has contributed to the current drastic shortage of printing paper and to growing public frustration at the difficulty in obtaining reading matter.

Mechanical engineers and researchers at the Central Research Institute for Paper Manufacturing Equipment are getting farther and farther away from the problems of the pulp-and-paper industry. After the State Polymer and Paper Division within the Ministry for Chemical Engineering was abolished, experts in this division familiar with paper manufacturing problems were no longer available. Those experts who remained in the Ministry are now mainly concerned with polymer equipment. The work carried out at the Research Institute for Paper Manufacturing Equipment - and this is very clear - has also been redirected towards the building of new technological models for the polymer industry. This policy was actively pursued by the former directors of the Institute with the knowledge of the (also former) Deputy Minister for Chemical Engineering,