

O. Numerov, Deputy Chief, Natural Conservation and Water Consumption Directorate, Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry of the USSR, and a conference member, related the following to our correspondent.

The Commission heard the reports of a number of ministries on progress in implementing the decree. As Yu. Gus'kov, First Deputy Minister, Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industry USSR, informed the Commission, the Baykal Pulp and Paper Combine is updating its power engineering facilities in order to reduce pollutant emissions to the level of maximum permissible concentrations. Engineers have developed measures to curtail water consumption and waste water discharge by 25 million cubic metres annually. Authorities have confirmed that planned pulp production at the Baykal Pulp and Paper Combine will not be increased.

The Selenga Pulp and Paperboard Combine is building a closed water consumption system, whose initial unit this organization anticipates putting into operation in 1989. We must, however, note that the Ministry of Construction in the Eastern Regions of the USSR has so far not implemented the Commission's decision to deploy the necessary building plant and machinery at the site of the Combine.

Under a joint agreement with the Ministry of the River Fleet RSFSR, during this year's navigation season officials introduced experimental haulage of timber in ships equipped with systems preventing the pollution of water bodies, instead of rafting. In October, forestry authorities intend to test a power-operated cable installation for skidding timber in mountainous terrain.