

Surveying, and Scientific Research Institute for the Design of Hydro-Technical Constructions has been swamped with requests to design nuclear power plants. It is obvious that, while specialists work in other areas, they lose professional skills in their own.

There is another most serious question -- that of enlisting the services of all relevant Ministries for the building of hydro-electric power plants, since expenditures on non-energy needs are constantly growing. At the Boguchansk Hydro-Electric Power Plant they have reached 40 per cent of the entire cost of the hydro-electric power plant system, at the Sredneyenisei -- more than a half. At present, power engineers are forced to create the infra-structure for the other branches as well, to make multi-faceted decisions on questions of socio-economic development of regions. This naturally slows down the development of power engineering itself, and also results in ecological problems. One of the most critical problems is the presence of trees on reservoir bottoms. For some reason, the Ministry of the Lumber Industry looks on these trees as though they were something disrupting normal activity. And so long as an extra-departmental decision is not made, a decision in which national considerations would predominate, the problem will remain critical, and trees will continue to rot under the reservoir water table or next to it.

The time has come to reassess anew the importance of hydro-electric power engineering in the life of the country, and to solve the problems of its development in an integrated manner.