

You Can't Replace Salt With Tears

TYUMEN'. Since the end of last year, the oil workers of western Siberia have found themselves in a disastrous situation: industrial salt from Solikamsk station on the Sverdlovsk line has started to arrive at Glavtyumenneftegaz (Tyumen' Oil and Gas Production Association, Ministry of the Oil and Gas Industry of the USSR) irregularly and at less than full capacity. Specifically, the precarious situation with regard to filling the State order arose within the key Nizhnevartovskneftegaz (Nizhne-Vartovskoye Oil and Gas) Production Association. The problem is that salt is an extremely important component in the solutions used to drill and overhaul the boreholes. To make a long story short, without salt you can't drill for oil.

In order to ship 80 tonnes of salt to the oil workers at Glavtyumenneftegaz on the Sverdlovsk line, 2,083 railway cars, spaced out over the months, were allocated during the first quarter. Already by January the line was short 196 flatcars, and though in February it had cut the shortfall by 24, the 172 flatcar shortfall carried over into March and continued to increase. Today the oil workers are short 600 tonnes of very scarce and badly needed salt.

At a meeting with the vice-chairman of Gosstab (State Committee of the USSR for Material and Technical Supplies), B. Yakovlev, at which were present representatives of the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of the Oil Industry and the Ministry for the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, it was noted that at the end of last year and in the first quarter of this year, the "Sil'vinit" Production Association had been undersupplying the oil workers of western