



Environment

Baikal Politics and the environment

Narrator

Even in those early days, the managers of the Mill recognised that risks to the environment could pose risks to the economy.

Raisa Zykova (*Speaking in Russian – English subtitles*)

They saw that they needed to protect the lake, that it was of value to the state, so we adopted a plan to reduce water discharge and emissions.

Narrator

A vast water treatment plant was built to remove as many of the pollutants as possible before the used water was released back into the lake. As a bonus the treatment process also dealt with large volumes of sewage from the growing town of Baikalsk. In the dying years of the Soviet era, perestroika saw a major transition in Soviet politics. The re-structuring under Michael Gorbachev brought economic reforms and accorded a higher priority for environmental protection. For the Baikalsk Mill these new laws meant reducing the amount of pollution entering the environment.

Raisa Zykova (*Speaking in Russian – English subtitles*)

And was time we had to study this legislation and rebuild things accordingly. In other words, originally it was our geographical position that forced us to deal with these problems and then it was the environmental legislation.