



U216 Environment - Lake Baikal

A heavy burden

V/O

The idea of developing technical solutions to protect the environment has come to be called 'ecological modernisation'.

It focuses on a co-operative relationship between industry and government over regulation and environmental controls.

Raisa

In the past the protection of the environment cost us money. It was an extra burden on production. When we had socialism this wasn't a big deal but when we became a limited company it became a very heavy burden in as far as our expenditure on the protection of the environment was in the region of 8-14% of our total expenses. And we became uncompetitive.

We began to find certain compromises, certain ways of doing things so that productivity was conserved and so that the environment would be conserved.

It became obvious that the most economic way for the plant to exist was to create the necessary technology in order to use as little water from Lake Baikal as possible and not return any at all to the lake.