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USSR SOLID-FUELS INDUSTRIES,
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1954

[This report is based on articles which have appeared in the USSR press and periodicals published during January and February 1954 and which deal with all phases of the solid-fuels industries, including coal, shale, and peat.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

COAL

General Aspects of the Coal Industry

During the past 3 years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the Ministry of Coal Industry USSR as a whole completed the plan for coal output. Preliminary data for this period indicate that the coal output has risen 25 percent (1), amounting to more than 320 million tons in 1953.(2) During the same period, the production of machine-building plants has increased 34.5 percent and the yield of coal-cleaning plants, 78 percent. At the same time, labor productivity has gone up 15 percent, and production costs have dropped 10 percent.

Preliminary data for 1953 point to accumulations by enterprises of the ministry more than 3 times as great as those of 1952. Among the most profitable combines were the following: Moskvougol', Tulaugol', Chelyabinskugol', Sverdlovskugol', Kuzbassugol', Karagandaugol', Sredazugol', and Intaugol'.

At present, more than 2,000 faces have been converted to the cycle work schedule, and it is aimed to complete one cycle each 24 hours. At faces which have been converted, the advance of the face is 65 percent greater than at the ordinary faces -- 37.1 meters and 22.4 meters, respectively. Every percent of increase in the advance of the face assures an increase of 0.3-0.4 percent in labor productivity.

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After the war, more than 140 types of new machines and mechanisms were created for the coal industry. As a result of the introduction of these machines, mechanization of a number of labor-consuming processes in the mines was completed, and a practical solution was achieved in the field of coal loading at the face in extraction operations and of coal and rock loading during development work, processes which comparatively recently were carried out exclusively by manual labor. In 1953, the level for coal loading at the face was 27 percent and that for coal and rock loading during development work, 43 percent.

In the construction of coal mines in 1953, rock loading was mechanized 82.3 percent in cutting vertical shafts and 37.6 percent in cutting horizontal workings.

In 1953, the rate of sinking vertical shafts was 49.5 percent faster than in 1951; the rate of cutting passages with blasting of rock was 78 percent faster; the speed of cutting crosscuts and mine-field passages was 48 percent greater; and that of cutting inclines, 88 percent greater. However, the rate of development work achieved up to now is still inadequate.(1)

Despite fulfillment of the 1953 plan for coal output, the USSR coal industry made a bad start in 1954. Particular laggards in January were the Stalinugol', Voroshilovgradugol', Tulaugol', and the Molotovugol' combines. A considerable number of mines in other combines also are failing to meet their quotas.(2)

Regional Performance

1. Donbass

The Chistyakovtratsit Trust (Stalinugol' Combine) completed the 1953 plan on 22 December, increasing its average daily output in the course of the year almost 9 percent. The Mine imeni Lutugin doubled its labor productivity and raised the coal output 1,250 tons per day as a result of converting all faces and all development work fronts to the cycle work schedule. The miners completed the 1953 year plan far ahead of schedule and, by the end of the year, gave the country about 40,000 tons of anthracite above the plan.

The Zuyevantratsit Trust (Stalinugol' Combine), the Gorlovskugol' Trust (Artemugol' Combine), and the Bokovantratsit Trust (Donbassantratsit Combine) completed the 1953 plan ahead of schedule. In the middle of December, about 40 mines of the Stalinugol' Combine were already working on their 1954 quotas.

The work of some Donbass mines, which was successful in December, deteriorated in January. Among mines so affected were the Kochegarka, Komsomol-ets, Kondrat'yevka, imeni Kalinin, and No 8.(3) The Stalinugol' and the Voroshilovgradugol' combines were lagging in February. However, in February, more than 50 mines in the Voroshilovgradugol' Combine were shipping above-plan fuel daily. Mine No 7-7-bis of the Bokovantratsit Trust far more than fulfilled its pledge in February, and Mine No 153 of the Krasnoluchugol' Trust fulfilled its pledge ahead of schedule and daily extracted 75 tons more than in January.(4)

The Mine imeni OGPU of the Rostovugol' Combine delivered 180,000 tons of coal above the plan in 1953; the Zapadnaya Kapital'naya Mine, 82,000 tons; and the Novo-Azovskaya Mine, 26,000 tons.(5) [The fulfillment of the 1953 plan by the Rostovugol' Combine as a whole was reported in Pravda on 29 December 1953.]

Zapadnaya Mine of the Kuybyshevugol' Trust completed the 2-month plan for January and February 1954 with an average daily output 20 percent higher than in 1953 and an increase of 15.5 percent in labor productivity.(6)

2. Moscow Basin

[In an article in Moskovskaya Pravda of 19 December 1953, which appeared prior to the indicated sources of this report, it was stated that the Moskvugol' Combine as a whole was successfully meeting production quotas as of that date.

- 2 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Several mines in the combine were already producing on their 1954 quotas. However, about one third of all the mines were not fulfilling the state plan. Reports on coal production in the Moscow Basin have been exceedingly meager during January and February 1954.]

Mine No 36 and the Second Granovskaya Mine of the Stal'nogorskugol' Trust (Moskvougol' Combine) were distinguished by highly productive work in 1953 and are working even more successfully in 1954.

During 8 days of January 1954, Mine No 42 of the Donskoyugol' Trust, also of the Moskvougol' Combine, extracted more than 200 tons of coal above the plan, and Mine No 26 of the same trust produced about 250 tons of above-plan coal in the first week of January.(7)

Mine No 12 of the Shchekinugol' Trust of the Tulaugol' Combine, the second great combine in the Moscow Basin, extracted 20,000 tons of coal above the plan in 1953 and saved 2 1/2 million rubles. This mine is equipped with the most modern installations and employs cutting machines, coal-loading machines, scrapers and belt conveyers.(8) [The Tulaugol' Combine and/or some of its enterprises have been frequent winners in quarterly competitions.]

3. Georgian SSR

In 1953, the Georgian coal industry extracted almost four times as much coal as in 1940. However, the Gruzugol' Combine fulfilled the 1953 state plan for coal output only 97.1 percent.(9) The combine as a whole did fulfill its December-1953 and January-1954 quotas, and the daily output in January was 13.8 percent higher than in January 1953.(10)

Despite the fact that the requirements for coal are steadily growing, the Ministry of the Coal Industry USSR and the Gruzugol' Combine are not adopting suitable measures to accelerate the construction of mines in the coal regions of the republic, and this was largely responsible for the creation of a coal shortage in 1953.(11)

The Tkibulugol' Trust is at present fulfilling the plan for coal output.(10) Some of the outstanding mines of this trust completed 1953 with success; for example, the Mine imeni Molotov completed its 1953 quota on 14 December 1953.(12) The Gelati Mine at the Mine imeni Lenin, also of the Tkibulugol' Trust, fulfilled the 1953 plan ahead of schedule. The Mine imeni Stalin did not fulfill its 1953 quota (13) and, in fact, this mine has been lagging in its coal output for a number of years.(12)

To increase the coal output in 1954, new faces and working fronts have been prepared. In sections of the Mine imeni Stalin, new conveyers have been set up. Loading of coal onto railroad cars has become completely mechanized. New coal fields have been developed in the Mine imeni Lenin and a new coal level is to be put in operation in the second quarter of 1954 in the Mine imeni Molotov.(13)

If the defects which now exist in mines and enterprises of the Gruzugol' Combine can be eliminated, it will be possible for active mines to achieve their planned capacity in the next 2-2 1/2 years, and the coal output can then be raised 25-30 percent above its present level.(10)

4. The Urals

The Sverdlovskugol' Combine completed the 1953 plan on 14 December, with an increase over 1950 of 32 percent in coal output and of 35 percent in labor productivity. Production costs per ton of coal extracted had dropped several rubles.

- 3 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

In enterprises of the Sverdlovskugol' Combine, working of coal seams is carried out mainly by the open-pit method, and excavators are the chief mining equipment. Transport of rock is carried out by heavy steam locomotives, electric locomotives, and automatic railroad dumpcars. The majority of extraction sections have a two-shift schedule for coal extraction and devote the third shift to repair and development work.

The Vakhrushevugol' Trust, the outstanding trust of the Sverdlovskugol' Combine, completed 1953 with good quality indexes. This trust saved millions of rubles by lowering the production costs of coal.(14)

On 29 January, Open Pit No 5, one of the largest in the Vakhrushevugol' Trust, delivered the last tons of coal on its January quota. This was the fifth enterprise in the Sverdlovskugol' Combine to complete the January program ahead of schedule. Open Pit No 5 is yielding 500 tons more coal daily than in 1953.(15) Open Pit No 1 of the Volchanskugol' Trust was the first enterprise of the Sverdlovskugol' Combine to complete its January quota and to start delivering coal above the month plan.(16)

The Yegorshinugol' Trust exceeded the [1953] plan for production costs and expenditures by several million rubles. Rigid control of the consumption of materials and electric power has been established in mines of this trust.

Construction organizations of Glavvostokuglestroy (Main Administration for the Construction of Coal Enterprises in Eastern Regions) are doing a poor job as regards putting new coal pits in operation, building housing for the miners, and constructing cultural-public buildings. The Sverdlovskuglestroy Trust is completing the plan for the utilization of capital investment not more than 60 percent.

In 1953, it was planned to put a new pit in operation. However, because of the long lag in construction operations, the pit is being put in operation according to a temporary technological scheme and at half its planned capacity. The construction of two other pits is proceeding very slowly.

It is very important to work the high-grade coal of the Bulanashskiy deposit in the Urals so as to free such large industrial centers as Sverdlovsk, Nizhniy Tagil, Kamensk-Uralskiy, and others from the necessity of having to transport fuel for great distances, but Glavgeologiya (Main Administration of Geology) of the Ministry of Coal Industry USSR and its trust, Sverdlovskgeologiya, are delaying exploration of new mine fields of the Bulanashskiy deposit.

Machine builders have done much in equipping open pits with perfected installations. To increase productivity in open-pit operations and reduce their costs, it is necessary to employ excavators with a 6-8-cubic-meter capacity and with a lengthened boom, as well as machines with a 10-cubic-meter capacity for moving waste rock to the worked-out area.(14)

The Mine imeni Stalin of the Stalinugol' Trust (Molotovugol' Combine) in the Urals completed the 1953 plan ahead of schedule and assumed increased obligations for 1954.(17)

Many groups of miners of the Kopeyskugol' Trust of the Chelyabinskugol' Combine exceeded the 1953 plan for coal output. Particularly great success was achieved by Mine No 42, which, already at the beginning of December, was working on its 1954 quota. One outstanding brigade completed its 1953 quota in 10 months and gave the country more than 5 trainloads of coal above the plan.(3)

- 4 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

5. Central Asia

A press report on 3 January 1954 states that the Kyzyl-Kiya Trust completed the 1953 plan for coal output on 31 December.(18) However, in the 6 February issue of the same newspaper, it is stated that the Kyzyl-Kiya Trust completed the 1953 plan for coal output only 99.7 percent.(19) Mine No 4-4-bis led the trust in performance, delivering 2,000 tons of above-plan coal. Miners of the fifth section shipped to the country nearly 15 trainloads of above-plan coal.(18) Dzhal Mine also gave a good performance. On the other hand, Mine No 1-1-bis and Komsomol'skaya Mine lagged greatly in their coal deliveries, although their geological conditions were no worse than those of the other mines and although they were equally well equipped.(20)

The Sulyuktaugol' Trust and the Kok-Yangakugol' Trust each completed the 1953 plan for coal output 105 percent; the Tash-Kumyr Mine Administration, 104 percent.(19)

The Uzbekugol' Trust fulfilled the 1953 plan 105 percent (21); the Tadzhikugol' Trust, 99 percent.(22)

[In an article on 31 December 1953 in Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, which appeared prior to indicated sources of this report, it was stated that the Lenigerugol' Trust had completed the 1953 plan 5 days ahead of schedule, with an increase over 1952 of 12 percent in the daily output.]

6. Karaganda Basin

Karaganda miners fulfilled the 1953 plan for coal output 101.5 percent and the plan for coking coal, 113 percent.(23) A report on 1 January stated that labor productivity for the Karandaugol' Combine has risen 8.7 percent (24), but later reports gave the figure as 7.9 percent.(23, 25) It is also stated that this is the first time in 4 years that the Karandaugol' Combine has fulfilled the plan for labor productivity.(26)

Although the Karandaugol' Combine finished 1952 with a loss, it enjoyed profits in 1953, variously reported as more than 10 million rubles (26), 22 million rubles above the plan during 11 months (24), and 21 million above-plan rubles.(23) [The last-mentioned figure was given by the chief of the Karandaugol' Combine in a speech at the 7th Communist Party Congress of the Kazakh SSR.]

During 1953, 16 mines in the Karaganda Basin failed to fulfill the plan for coal output and owed the country more than 300,000 tons of coal. Seventeen mines did not meet the plan for labor productivity, 18 mines and two open pits failed to reduce production costs to the prescribed amount, and 13 mines did not achieve their planned capacity.(25)

In 1953, the level of mechanized loading at the face increased 11 percent in Karaganda and the productivity of the coal-mining combine rose 16 percent.(23) In 1954, it is intended to raise the level of mechanized loading at the face to 70 percent of all coal extracted. Additional Donbass combines will be introduced at 22 faces, and half of all faces in the basin will be converted to the cycle work schedule. New measures are planned also for the mechanization of development work, for the delivery of empty cars to the face, and for other labor-consuming processes.(24)

The Karagandashakhtostroy (Karaganda Mine Construction) Combine has been dealing inadequately with the tasks set for it. It is not putting new structures in use promptly, and those which are being put in use have great defects. The combine is well set up to carry out construction, but it exploits its advantage poorly. It finished 1953 with great losses. The most important task of the constructors of the Karaganda Basin is to overcome the lag in capital construction.(26)

- 5 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-C-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

7. Kuzbass

The Kuzbassugol' Combine as a whole had completed the 1953 plan by 29 December. In 3 years, the average daily productivity of the combine had risen 20 percent.

Among the mines in the Kuzbass which fulfilled the plan ahead of schedule were the following: Mine imeni Dmitrov, Mine imeni Kirov, Zhurinka-4, Anzhero-Sudzhenskaya Mine No 9-15, Chernaya Gora Mine, Komsomolets Mine, Fizkul'turnik, Bachatskiy and the Krasnobrokskiy coal pits.

However, 31 mines in the Kuzbass and more than half the sections did not meet their quotas, and, in some Kuzbass mines, labor productivity not only did not rise above 1952 but even fell below that year.

During the first 10 days of January, not one of the trusts of the Kuzbass fulfilled its quota.⁽³⁾ However, the situation improved during the month to such an extent that 45 Kuzbass mines and open pits completed the January plan.⁽⁴⁾ The first enterprise in the basin to achieve this goal was the Bachatskiy coal pit of the Belovugol' Trust, which completed the January plan on 27 January.⁽²⁷⁾ Other Kuzbass mines which delivered their January quotas ahead of schedule were the Polysayevskaya-1 Mine of the Leninugol' Trust, which mined 4,000 tons of above-plan fuel and considerably decreased production costs⁽⁴⁾; the Shusstalepskiye Shtol'ni Mine of the Molotovugol' Trust, which delivered three trainloads of coal above its January obligations⁽²⁸⁾; and the Mine imeni Kirov of the Leninugol' Trust, which shipped ten trainloads of above-plan coal in January. Other coal enterprises which were giving a good performance at the end of January were the Tyrganskiye Uklony, Butovskaya, and Kapital'naya-1 mines and the Krasnobrodskiy Open Pit.⁽⁴⁾

8. East Siberia and the Far East

Mine No 5 of the Cherekhovugol' Trust of the Vostsibugol' Combine extracted more than 5,000 tons of coal above the plan in 1 1/2 months of 1954.⁽⁴⁾

[It was reported in Sovetskaya Kirgiziya of 27 December 1953 that the Khabarovskugol' Combine had completed the 1953 plan for coal output ahead of schedule and that its output was 10.3 percent above that of 1952 but that its production costs had dropped 5.1 percent.]

9. Pechora Basin

Workers of Mine No 25 of the Vorkutugol' Combine have determined to increase the coal yield from one face considerably and to raise the performance of the Donbass combine to 17,000-18,000 tons per month. Discharging their obligations, sections No 2 and No 5 are extracting 50-60 tons more of coal daily in January than in preceding months.

At present, the mine is working out measures to improve the utilization of machinery and increase labor productivity. Considerable attention is being devoted to reusing mine timbers.⁽²⁸⁾

Miscellaneous Problems of Coal Industry

1. Coal Cleaning

The rapidly increasing Soviet industry requires not only increasingly large amounts of coal but also coal of higher grade. There is still much to be achieved along this line. A number of mines in the Moscow Basin and coal-cleaning plants and mines of the Donbass supply coal to consumers which fails to meet requirements for size of lumps and for ash, sulfur, and moisture content.

- 6 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Cleaning plants of mines of the Krasnoluchugol', Krasnoarmeyskugol', Pervomay-skugol', Makeyevugol' and Kuybyshevugol' trusts in the Donbass fail to conform to established standards particularly often. In 5 months of 1953, mines of the Stalinugol' and the Voroshilovgradugol' combines shipped large amounts of run-of-the-mine coal without any sorting. About 50 percent of the coal supplied to the Ministry of Railways is run-of-the-mine coal and anthracite.(29)

[Despite the above criticism, the Soviet press and coal periodicals frequently publish articles on the operations of outstanding coal-cleaning plants.] All phases of coal cleaning are completely mechanized at the Novo-Uzlovskiy Central Coal-Cleaning Plant. It is equipped with huge vibrating screens, where large lumps of coal are reduced to the required size under the influence of constant vibration; a pneumatic cleaning shop, where more than 200 tons of coal can be freed of rock in an hour with the aid of compressed air; coal-washing installations which remove rock from the bulk of the coal received by the plant; and a flotation shop which recovers valuable coal dust.(30)

The Kospash Coal-Cleaning Plant at Mine No 24/38 of the Molotovugol' Combine is the first coal-cleaning plant to be put in operation in the Kizel Basin by the Ministry of Coal Industry USSR.

Experiments were made in this plant, using coal extracted in Mine No 24/38. A fractional analysis of the coal was made by immersing it in watery solutions of zinc chloride with a specific gravity of 1.5 and 1.8, respectively. When the coal was cleaned to a depth of 1.3 millimeters, the fuel concentrate obtained amounted to 42.98 percent of the original run-of-the-mine coal, and it had an ash content of 17.76 percent. When the cleaning went to a depth of 6 millimeters, 53.79 percent of concentrate was obtained, with an ash content of 17.71 percent. In the process, the ash content of the concentrate was reduced 11.75 percent, 11.50 percent below that of run-of-the-mine coal.(1)

2. Transport

a. Underground Transport

Increased efficiency in underground transport plays an important role in stepping up the coal output. About 200 trains per day, loaded with coal, rock, and other materials, move along the main underground railroads of the Mine imeni Abakumov of the Stalinugol' Trust.

An STsB (Signalization, Centralization, and Blocking) installation has been set up in the mine workings, and with the aid of this, one dispatcher can regulate traffic in all directions. This up-to-date apparatus permits remote throwing of switches and giving signals to operators of electric locomotives in any section of the road.

Automatization of underground transport is being introduced in many coal enterprises of the Donbass. Thirteen mines of the Stalinugol' Combine have automatic control of the movement of trains, and by the end of 1954, this figure will be raised to 30.(31)

b. Transport of Backfilling Material

The principal process in the total complex of backfilling operations in a mine, excluding the extraction and preparation of the materials, is transport from the crushing plant to the worked-out area.

The transport of backfilling materials in mines of the southern Kuzbass (Prokop'yevsko-Kiselevskiy area), which work thick, steeply-dipping seams, may be characterized as follows: labor and costs of transport make up an average of 70-80 percent of the total labor and costs of all backfilling operations of a mine. Bedrock, shales, and sandstones, all basic backfilling materials, are generally mined independently by each mine in local quarries. From the quarry,

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

the material is transported to the crushing plant, where it is crushed and sorted. From this point, it is supplied to borcholes and dropped to the underground workings.

At the surface, backfilling materials are transported, depending on local conditions, either by rail or with the aid of belt conveyers, or, in some cases, by a combination method. For narrow-gauge transport (in extensive use) low-capacity cars (3 cubic meters to 5 cubic meters) and flat cars with manual tipping devices are in use.

From the surface, the backfilling material is dropped by gravity to the underground workings of the mine simultaneously through six or seven boreholes. In the underground workings, the main bulk of the backfilling material is moved by rail in small mine cars hauled by electric locomotives and goes to the unloading bunker of the extraction section. The mine train has a capacity of about 20 cubic meters. Cars with a capacity of 2 cubic meters or more and having a drop bottom are unloaded automatically, but cars with a capacity of one cubic meter and having a closed body are emptied by means of frontal tipping.

Within the limits of the extraction field, the backfilling material is transported by belt conveyers when the form of backfilling is automatic or mechanical, and by pipes when the form is pneumatic or hydraulic. In the latter case, the material goes directly from the surface to the worked-out area.(32)

3. Working the Tkibuli Coal Deposit

From 1847 through 1946, the Tkibuli coal deposit was worked by varying methods, with complete roof caving and with prophylactic packing of the caved area, as well as with partial or even complete manual and automatic backfilling of the worked-out area. However, all these methods were accompanied by great losses of coal; often as high as 60 percent, as well as by underground fires.

Tkibuli mines using the slicing method to work two adjacent coal seams had to leave between the seams, in addition to the interlayers of waste rock, streaks of liptobiolites and carbonaceous shales, and, in the case of thick coal seams, sometimes also blocks of coal. This added to the already considerable losses of the useful deposit.

In working specific extraction sections, considerable reserves of liptobiolites (in mines imeni Lenin and imeni Stalin) and of carbonaceous shales (in all three mines) were irrevocably lost in the depths of the earth. The approximate distribution of all the coal reserves according to type is listed below in percent for the active coal mines of the Tkibuli deposit:

<u>Name of Mine</u>	<u>Humus Coal</u>	<u>Liptobiolites</u>	<u>Carbonaceous Shales</u>
Imeni Lenin	70	10	20
Imeni Stalin	65	8	27
Imeni Molotov	<u>38</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>26</u>
Average for deposit	62	14	24

The coal extracted in the Mine imeni Molotov is long-flame coal (type D), and the coal from the two other mines is gas coal (type G). Coal from the Mine imeni Molotov was not used in the experiments conducted with Tkibuli coals for coal cleaning and coking. However, it is known that the presence in the charge of tarry liptobiolites worsens the quality of the coke obtained, and therefore coal from the Mine imeni Molotov is not recommended for coking purposes but should

- 8 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

be used for fuel and for obtaining gas. The amount of humus coal extracted in the other two mines is completely adequate, in a mixture with Tvarcheli coal, to supply the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant with coke.(32)

4. Open-Pit Mining

The USSR has long extolled the merits of open-pit mining for its high labor productivity and decreased production costs, in comparison with underground mining. It has recommended the adoption of this mining method in all areas where it is feasible. The Urals have been one of the areas where this method has been successfully employed. In January 1954, the Vakhrushevugol' Trust of the Sverdlovskugol' Combine in the Urals made a report of its growing facilities and performance in the field of open-pit mining.

The stock of excavators operating in this trust is almost 30 times the prewar number. In transport, steam locomotives and low-capacity railroad cars are giving way to 40-50 ton automatic dumpcars. The stock of drilling machines and mechanisms has been renovated, and the power equipment of enterprises of the trust has increased during postwar years to many times its former figure. All this has led to a considerable increase in the removal of overburden from the pits. The volume of rock removed to the dumps in 1953 was equal to the earth excavation carried out at the Tsimlyanskaya Hydraulic Center.

Tens of brigades working with 3-cubic-meter SE-3 excavators have raised the productivity of their machines in overburden removal to a million cubic meters per year. The Vakhrushevugol' miners are pioneers in using in their pits super-powerful excavators: the walking 10-cubic-meter ESh-10-75, the 14-cubic-meter ESh-14-75, and the 15-cubic-meter crawler-mounted EGI-15 electric excavator have greatly reduced labor-consuming operations. The work performed by one brigade alone, using the EGI-15 excavator, would require the manual labor of several thousand men. In 1953, the Vakhrushev miners gave the country many trainloads of above-plan coal.(3)

SEALE

Performance of Estonian Shale Industry for 1953 and First 2 Months of 1954

The Estonslanets Combine fulfilled the 1953 plan 108 percent (33)

[It was announced in Sovetskaya Estoniya of 15 December 1953 that the Estonslanets Combine had completed the 1953 plan for shale output on 1 December 1953. This means that it took the entire month of December, with the exception of one day or a part of one day, to produce the extra 8 percent. December production would therefore be slightly less than the average for the first 11 months of the year.]

The Kukruse Mine of the Estonian Shale Basin produced tens of thousands of tons of shale above the plan in 1953, and labor productivity of the miners increased during the year 7.1 percent above the plan.(34)

On 27 February, the Estonslanets Combine completed the 2-month production plan with a shale output 7.2 percent higher than in 1953.(35) Mine No 10 has achieved 1 1/2 times its planned capacity. In January, the mine delivered two trainloads of shale above the plan.

The productivity of the cutting machines in Estonian shale mines is at present 2.1 times as great as in 1950. Thirty faces are operating on the cycle work schedule.

- 9 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

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Two conveyer-transfer workers in Mine No 6 have developed a high-speed method for transferring scraper conveyers. These same individuals initiated the creation of complex brigades for drilling and for transferring equipment. (36)

The Kokhtla-Yarve Shale-Processing Plant fulfilled the 1953 plan 107 percent.(33) It produced millions of cubic meters of domestic gas above the plan, thousands of tons of shale oil, and many other products.(34)

The republic fulfilled the plan for shale output 108 percent, shale oil, 102 percent; and shale gas, 104 percent.(33)

PEAT

Plan Fulfillment of USSR Peat Industry

Glavtorf (Main Administration of the Peat Industry) of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations completed the 1953 plan for gross production only 91.5 percent, including lump peat, 104.6 percent, and milled peat, 78.1 percent. Rainy weather, which persisted in a number of areas during the peat season, was largely responsible for the failure of Glavtorf to fulfill the plan.

Enterprises of the Leningrad Peat Trust did particularly unsatisfactory work in the fulfillment of the plan for gross output, achieving a figure of only 62.8 percent. Other lagging trusts were the Yaroslavl' Peat Trust, with 78.6 percent; the Kalinin Peat Trust, with 80.5 percent; and the Ivanovo Peat Trust, with 89.7 percent.

Although Glavtorf as a whole failed to fulfill the 1953 plan for peat output, some peat trusts did fulfill the plan: the Kirov Peat Trust, 138.4 percent; the Sverdlovsk Peat Trust, 113.0 percent; the Lithuanian Peat Trust, 105.2 percent; and the Gor'kiy Peat Trust, 106.2 percent.(37)

The Zenganskiy peat enterprise of the Kirov Peat Trust made a particularly good record, fulfilling the 1953 plan for milled peat 148.2 percent. The output per worker in this enterprise was 185 percent of the plan, and the average yield per hectare for the season was 36 percent above the plan. Production costs of peat, as of 1 August, were 23 percent below the plan.

In the fourth quarter 1953, the Belorussian Peat Trust fulfilled the plan for peat haulage 118 percent and coped successfully with the plan for bog-development work, both as regards uprooting tree stumps and putting trenches in order. It also fulfilled the plan for the repair of technological equipment. The Belorussian Peat Trust likewise achieved good results in labor productivity, fulfilling the plan for performance per worker 129 percent.

Another trust which fulfilled the 1953 fourth-quarter plan for peat haulage was the Sverdlovsk Peat Trust, with an achievement of 115 percent. This trust carried out considerable work in uprooting stumps in new peat fields, exceeded the plan for putting trenches in order, and was successful in the repair of technological equipment.

The Ozeretskiy peat enterprise of the Orekhovo Peat Trust, the Kerzhenetskiy enterprise of the Gor'kiy Peat Trust, and the Zenginskiy peat enterprise of the Kirov Peat Trust all fulfilled the plan for peat haulage. Figures for the first two enterprises are 129 percent and 140.5 percent, respectively. The Ozeretskiy and the Kerzhenetskiy peat enterprises were both very successful in bog-development work, the latter enterprise exceeding the plan for uprooting stumps in new peat fields by 17 percent. All three enterprises carried out repair work on tractors successfully.

- 10 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-LMechanization in the Peat Industry

In the 1953 season, mechanized gathering of lump peat was carried out in 29 peat enterprises of Glavtorf. In these enterprises, 137 sets of gathering machines were in operation, including 88 sets of UKB-TUM machines and 49 sets of UKB-SKS machines. The plan for mechanized gathering was fulfilled a total of 78.7 percent and the level of mechanization reached 24.3 percent as against a plan of 33 percent. Only ten peat enterprises fulfilled the plan for mechanized gathering.

In 1953, 15 sets of UKB-TUM machines were in operation in enterprises of the Chernoramenskiy Peat Trust. However, most unfavorable weather conditions did not make it possible to prepare the required amount of peat for mechanized gathering.

In addition to idle periods caused by lack of preparation of the peat, other idle periods were caused by electromechanical difficulties. These amounted to 5.1 percent in the Chernoramenskiy peat enterprise, 5.9 percent in the Chisty enterprise, and 17.4 percent in the Mugreyevskiy peat enterprise.

In the 1953 peat season, the Orekhovo peat enterprise employed two sets of UKB-TUM machines with two conveyers, two sets of UKB-SKS machines, and two TUM-5L conveyers with manual loading.

Work was carried out in two shifts. The average performance per shift was as follows: 0.88 hectare per UKB-TUM set, 0.87 hectare per UKB-SKS set, and 0.8 hectare per TUM-5L. The maximum performance per machine-shift was 1.77 hectare for the UKB-TUM, 1.32 hectare for the UKB-SKS, and 1.24 hectare for the TUM-5L with manual loading.

Of a total number of 415 calendar set-days, there were 84 complete days of idleness, distributed as follows: 18 for the UKB-TUM and 11 for the UKB-SKS, caused by transfer of the machines to a new section; and 33 for the UKB-TUM and 22 for the UKB-SKS, because of rain and because the peat was not in a condition suitable for gathering.

The average cost of gathering peat from one hectare was 498.43 rubles, including 505.1 rubles for the UKB-TUM machines, 559.5 rubles for the TUM conveyers, and 374.9 rubles for the UKB-SKS machines.

Labor consumption in gathering peat from one hectare was 17.92 man-days, including 18.1 for the UKB-TUM, 21.6 for the TUM with manual labor, and 10.88 for the UKB-SKS.

These figures were obtained for miscellaneous peat with an ash content of 15.7 percent, a moisture content of 43.5 percent, and a 144.2-ton yield from one hectare.

Mechanized gathering of excavator peat by sets of UKB-SKS machines was widely introduced in the 1953 peat season in all enterprises of the Sverdlovsk Peat Trust. In all the enterprises, with the exception of the Molebskiy, every UKB machine worked in a set with an SKS bucket and, during the season, accommodated one peat-extracting excavator.

Percent of plan fulfillment for gathering and percent of mechanized gathering are indicated in the following table (33):

- 11 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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<u>Peat Enterprises</u>	<u>C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L</u> <u>Fulfillment of Plan</u> <u>For Gathering (%)</u>	<u>Level of Mechanized</u> <u>Gathering, (%)</u>
Monetnyy	146	77.5
Losinyy	146.5	84
Isetko-Ayatskiy	162	72.5
Shirokorechenskiy	137	44.5
Ayatskiy	107	35.5
Molebskiy	102	31.8
For the trust	145	60.8

[The first 2 months of the year are relatively uneventful in the peat industry. The peat extraction season starts when spring is well advanced, and the season ends early in fall. During the months between seasons, preparations for the next extraction period are undertaken, machinery is repaired and improved, faults and inefficiencies in operations of the previous season are reviewed, and measures are worked out to eliminate such defects.]

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- 12 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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- 13 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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