

Tariffs fully updated for energy provision

Housing and communal services will be provided without intermediaries

By Vladimir Khromov

Chairman of Committee of State Control, Alexander Yakobson told about that, speaking at a meeting at Gomelenergo, accompanied by heads of ministries, regional executive committees and regional organisations of housing and communal services. For several years, Gomel residents have been paying producer Gomelenergo directly for

their heating, with positive results. Complaints have fallen three-fold and costs have reduced. Naturally, this also benefits the regional budget.

Mr. Yakobson noted, that, as the head of the working group and Chairman of the Committee of State Control, he received a direct mission from the Head of State to remove all intermediaries between heat producers and consumers. He asserted, "Regardless of personal wishes, the commission

will be executed. We need to approach this problem from the state's point of view, rather than from departmental interests. The Energy Ministry is the most powerful structure in the republic, capable of resolving any issues. There can be no doubt that it will successfully function as producer and service provider."

President Lukashenko recently received Mr. Yakobson's report, including the activity of the working group on housing and communal ser-

vices, which he heads. The Chairman of the Committee reported on directions of work to reduce the cost of housing and communal services, via rational usage. He explained, "In particular, we plan a number of measures in housing and communal services, including payment differentiation, intermediary abolition, change of structure of management, and recalculation of norms and standards in rendering

communal services — by May 1st, 2014 (unchanged since 2007)."

The transition to direct public payment for heating will be enforced gradually, over 2015 and 2016, while optimising efficiency of distribution and developing a new system of differentiated payment for enterprises/organisations and individuals.



Mini-CHP, running on local fuels, launched in Orsha District's Baran

General Motors Company to start assembling Chevrolet or Opel autos

Chevrolet or Opel will be the first car brand to be assembled in Belarus by General Motors and Unison, as part of a Belarusian-British joint project — as discussed by Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikov and Andrew Dunstan, President and Managing Director of GM Russia and CIS

By Alexander Fiodorov

June 2013 saw the signing of a framework agreement on the assembly of General Motors cars using Unison production facilities in Belarus: a priority project for Belarus, supervised by a high-level group, led by Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Prokopovich.

The PM noted during his recent meeting with Mr. Dunstan that the Belarusian government is keen to liaise with General Motors. "We support this co-operative agreement with Unison company and think this collaboration can be expanded by involving other Belarusian and Russian companies," Mr. Myasnikov asserted. This year, legislation is being passed to cover the project, including Presidential decrees. Issues relating to

recycling are also being settled with the Russian Federation government.

The first stage of the project envisages SKD assembly. Mr. Myasnikov underlines the need to 'increase localisation' to ensure additional added value — to the benefit of both parties. He explains, "This could be done by starting welding and cabin painting works." These options have been discussed by Belarus, with total understanding reached. Mr. Myasnikov believes

Belarus can now be negotiated.

Tackling co-operative expansion with General Motors, the Head of the Belarusian Government suggests that GM may wish to assess the capacity of the Belarusian manufacturing industry, which currently produces competitively priced automobile component parts. The Belarusian PM is optimistic about prospects for bilateral co-operation and General Motors shares this optimism. Mr. Dunstan states, "It's very important for General Motors to do good business and produce high-quality cars. The number one task is to make

sure

the project will progress smoothly. We've already chosen our initial model (one of already sold in Russia): Chevrolet or Opel — or, perhaps, Cadillac." He notes that those working at the factory will gain specialist training.

General Motors and its partners have operations in 30 countries worldwide. The company owns such top brands as Chevrolet, Cadillac, Baojun, Buick, GMC, Holden, Isuzu, Jiefang, Opel, Vauxhall and Wuling. The company began selling its Chevrolet, Opel and Cadillac cars on the Russian market in 1992.

Unison JV is located in the village of Obchak, 10km from Minsk. The enterprise was founded as a Belarusian-British joint venture: Ford Unison, in 1996. In 2000, it became Unison JV CJSC and has assembled a series of automobile brands, including Ford, KIA and Samand.



that further steps regarding the car production project in

Paying fully for gas and electricity

By Yevgeny Vasiliev

Belarusians currently pay just thirty percent of the real cost of communal services

As the Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Kalinin, has told a hotline initiated by *SB. Belarus Segodnya* newspaper, most expenses are subsidised by the state and are paid for by enterprises. However, next year, citizens will need to cover 100 percent of gas and electricity costs and around 60 percent of other services.

Clear criteria on tariff hikes were previously adopted, stating a cap of \$5 annually, in addition to quarter indexation. A working group — led by the head of the State Control Committee — has been established to help clarify the issue. "We aim to lift excessive expenses, which should not be included into the cost of services," explains Mr. Kalinin.

Tariffs for urban public transportation are to remain as they are until August, due to the forthcoming Ice Hockey World Championship. However, as running costs currently exceed ticket prices, a rise is inevitable.

Solar energy is very attractive

By Valery Sidorov

Country's largest oil product retailer — Belorusneft Association — plans to double its number of filling stations, using solar energy

The Belorusneft chain is to gain eight solar-powered forecourts, covering each region of the country.

In late March, Belorusneft introduced a new solar-powered facility in Lepel, using a photovoltaic power unit on the roof, comprising 40 solar panels. Energy is produced even in cloudy weather, although to a smaller degree.

Belorusneft plans to upgrade 15 forecourts in 2014. Last year, the company modernised six facilities, and has plans to build 18 new filling stations.

Depth of processing

Slavneft to invest nearly \$700m in modernising Mozyr Oil Refinery

Belneftekhim's announcement foresees \$1.7bn of investment by 2015 at Mozyr Oil Refinery, enabling hydrocracking of heavy rests and production of high-octane gasoline (no lower than 95) and diesel fuel meeting at least Euro-5 standards. The depth of oil refinement after modernisation will be 90 percent — against the present 70 percent.