

Rossiyskaya Gazeta - Federal Issue No. 4772 (0)

15 October 2008 03:00

### **Pride will be scrapped**

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The Kola superdeep well will be liquidated

The Kola ultra-deep well was one of the symbols of Russian science. Films were shot about it, books were written. Now the dismantling of unique equipment has begun.

This technique, which has no analogues in the world, made it possible to penetrate 12,262 metres into the depth of the Earth's crust, which exceeds the achievement of US geologists by more than two thousand metres.

Drilling of the Kola borehole was started in May 1970 not only for purely scientific purpose - to study the deep structure of the Earth. The project organisers also hoped for a practical result - to discover new deposits of copper-nickel ore. And these expectations were fulfilled. Valuable deposits were found at a depth of about 1.5 kilometres.

It was expected that after the completion of the Kola superdeep well, it would be turned into a unique natural laboratory to study, using special instruments, the deep processes occurring in the Earth's crust. However, the collapse of the USSR disrupted the scientists' plans. In 1995, all scientific work was stopped due to lack of funds, and the well itself was mothballed. The equipment began to rust, and the production complex fell into a state of emergency and now poses an ecological hazard to the environment.

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