

OBITUARY

BORIS FRIDRIKHOVICH REL'TOV

Boris Fridrikovich Rel'tov, senior researcher of the B. E. Vedenev All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering, participant in the civil war, Honored Power Engineer of the USSR, Laureate of the USSR Council of Ministers Prize, Inventor of the USSR, and Candidate of Technical Sciences, died on June 16, 1991 at the age of 93 years.

As a prominent specialist in the area of hydraulic engineering and hydrotechnical construction in the USSR, B. F. Rel'tov made a great contribution to the organization, conduction, and implementation of the results of investigations into the development of the country's power. While working at the institute he organized and directed the electrical analogy, hydrophysics, and physicochemical research and analysis of soils laboratories. Under his direction an electrical analogy device was developed for the first time in world practice for three-dimensional investigation of the seepage regime when designing and constructing objects of the First-Year Plan. B. F. Rel'tov was the first to establish the main regularities of electroosmotic seepage, developed the electroosmotic method of drying soils and controlling their adhesion during excavation. A nondestructive method of investigating the strength of structural bonds in soils and an electrical method of determining the density of noncohesive soils, which were introduced during construction of hydraulic-fill dams, were developed under his supervision. On the initiative of B. F. Rel'tov, a water-tight diaphragm of polyethylene film was constructed for the first time in the USSR on the dam of the Atbashi hydroelectric station. The results obtained during these works were a substantial contribution to Soviet science, development, and introduction of progressive technologies of constructing earth structures and to the successful construction of government buildings in the region of power construction.

B. F. Rel'tov was the author of many scientific works and inventions which gained wide recognition both in the USSR and abroad.

B. F. Rel'tov during this entire career performed great public work. He was a member of the Soviet National Committee on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering and actively participated as a member of organizational committees in conducting All-Union conferences on soil stabilization and compaction.

Co-workers, comrades, and students express their deep sorrow concerning the death of Boris Fridrikovich – a prominent hydraulic engineer, good comrade, humane and sincere person – and will always keep a bright memory of him.