

Black Snow Buries Russian Coal Region, Sparks Criminal Case

February 25, 2019



"Help us," the message reads. [kamenkseni / Instagram](#)

Russian police have opened a criminal case into air pollution in the Siberian coal-mining region of Kemerovo, weeks after black snow first covered towns in the area.

Dark snow [descended](#) on the cities of [Prokopyevsk](#), Kiselyovsk and Leninsk-Kuznetsky in mid-February, a phenomenon that has been attributed to rising coal output. Authorities in another Kemerovo town were reprimanded in December for using white paint to [cover](#) up ash- and soot-covered snow.

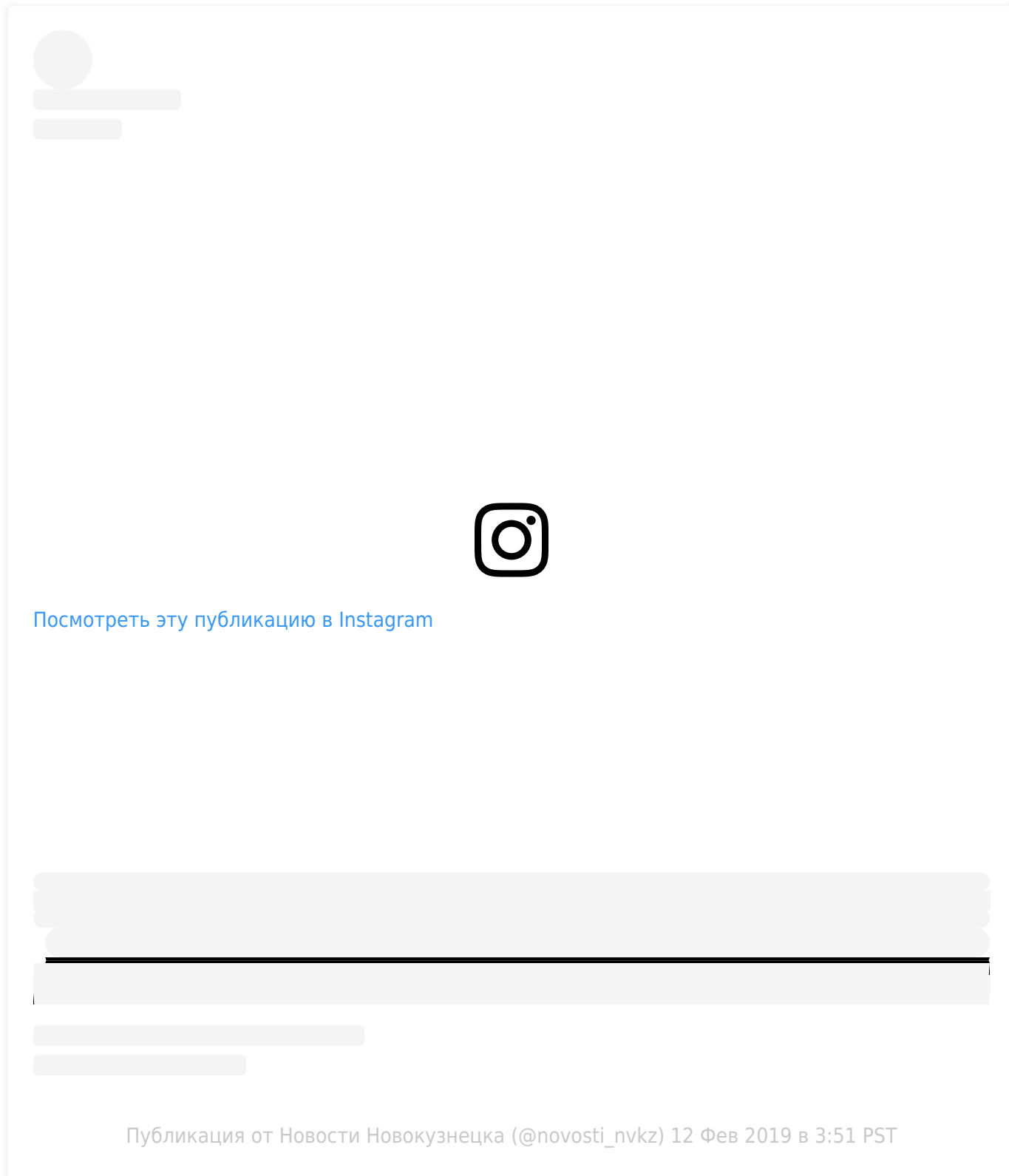
The regional police department [announced](#) Monday that it had opened a criminal case into air pollution against an unnamed factory after a complaint filed by a resident of Kiselyovsk. The charges carry a fine of up to 80,000 rubles (\$1,226) and suspension from holding office for up to 5 years.

Tests revealed more than double the permissible amount of pollutants in the air, the Kemerovo region Interior Ministry department said.

Here is a selection of photos posted by social media users:

Black snow engulfs cars on the street.

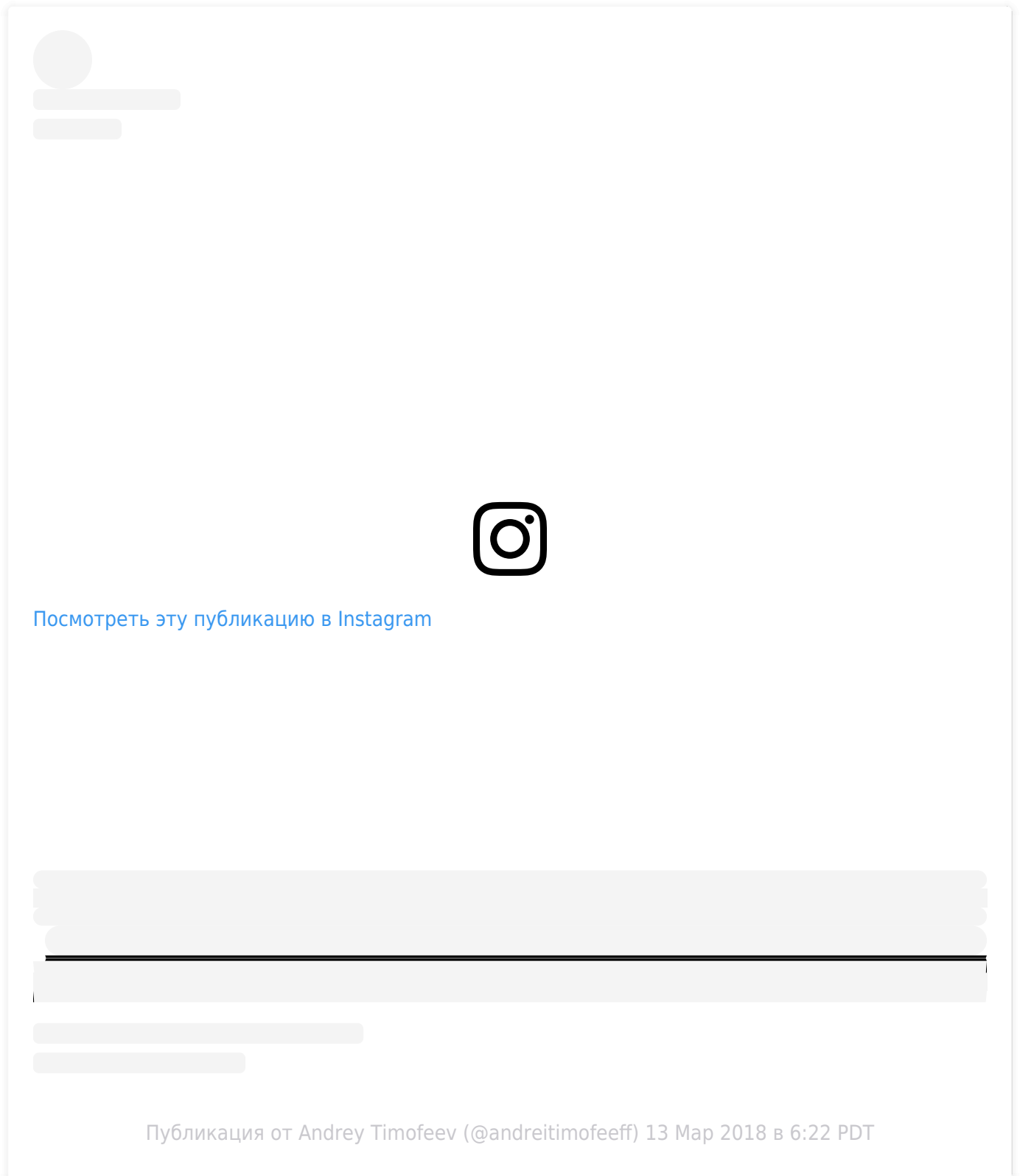
Embed:



Placeholder for a social media post. The post area is mostly blank, with a large Instagram logo centered. Below the logo is a blue link: [Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#). At the bottom, there is a caption: Публикация от Новости Новокузнецка (@novosti_nv kz) 12 Фев 2019 в 3:51 PST.

This car parked on the side of the street isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

Embed:

An Instagram embed placeholder. It features a grey profile picture and name in the top left corner. In the center, there is a large Instagram camera icon. Below the icon, the text "Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram" is displayed in blue. At the bottom, there are several grey bars representing a blurred image and caption, and a footer line that reads "Публикация от Andrey Timofeev (@andreitimofeeff) 13 Мар 2018 в 6:22 PDT".

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

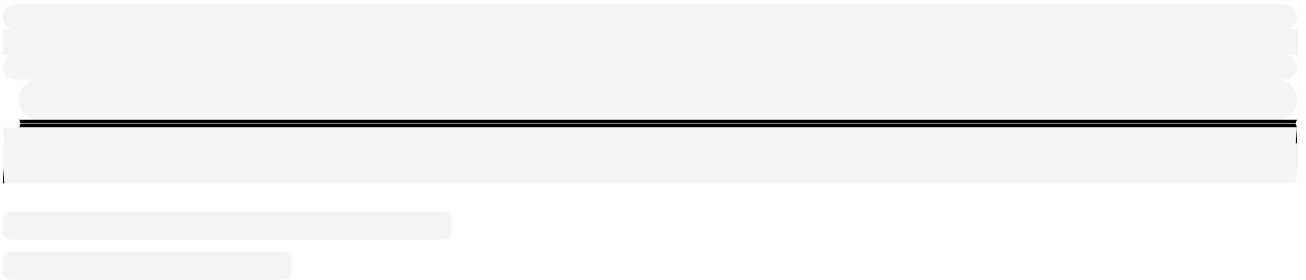
Публикация от Andrey Timofeev (@andreitimofeeff) 13 Мар 2018 в 6:22 PDT

"Our white snow," reads the writing in the snow that is not at all white.

Embed:



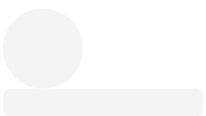
[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Киселевск 42 (@kiselevsk42) 10 Фев 2019 в 8:03 PST

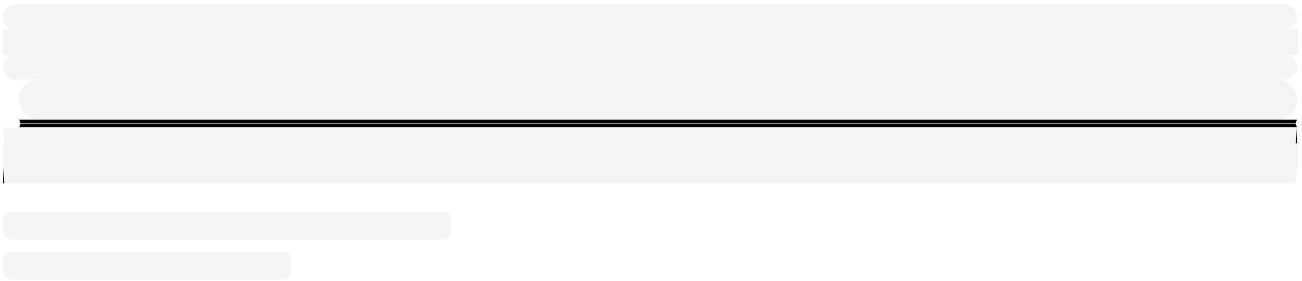
A thick spread of black snow, marked with the date.

Embed:





[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Маникюр Педикюр Кемерово (@nails_likakem) 3 Фев 2019 в 6:02 PST

When coated with snow, tar streets and the sidewalk blend into each other.

Embed:

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/02/25/black-snow-buries-russian-coal-region-sparks-criminal-case-a64611>