**Title**: TBD

**Longline**: A hydrological engineer – an eager problem-solver - is devoted to increasing the electricity production in Yugoslavia that was troubled by energy shortages, and by doing that he demonstrates how water gets overused beyond the socio-environmental limits.

**The pitch:**

In 1984, Yugoslavia is facing serious blackouts and the country begs for quick and cheap solutions. The story follows an energy engineer who is eager to make small rivers and streams useful for electricity production. He departs to a mountain to study the small waterways and create precise designs for future projects. Up in the hills, he is challenged by the unruly properties of the streams. He starts his imaginary battle with the water, looking for ways to make it tamed and efficient. Step by step, he finds a way to achieve that, and he returns to his colleagues to present his solution: the kilometers-long pipelines and series of small plants, which connect numerous streams and maximizes the production of energy. His colleagues congratulate him, but something haunts him – it is the crying landscape.

**The characters**:

**The engineer:** a devoted professional, rational in his approach, and persistent when facing issues. He is a devoted member of his professional community and a patriot who helps his homeland.

**Water** (still to decide whether to include and how): unpredictable and strong; stubborn when tried to be controlled; enmeshed in the web of dependency with other creatures and the landscape.

**The expert public**: the community which knows its social function, always in search of cheaper and abundant energy.

**Summary:**

**1st act**: The energy engineers are meeting to propose solutions for the energy shortages. The meeting is held under candles – the venue has no electricity due to a blackout. The atmosphere is grim, everything around is greyish, and everyone works to their best abilities to find cheap and domestically available sources of energy. One of them stands up and speaks loudly – he says that the country still has plenty of unused water potential, and it would be irrational to waste them. Others resent his idea, some are even covertly laughing, ridiculing the proposal. Those small rivers are useless, totally inefficient, they contend. The engineer is dissatisfied with the reception of his idea and decided to demonstrate its feasibility and economic viability.

**2nd act**: He goes to one of the mountains to study the properties of the rivers and streams in order to make such designs of hydropower plants that would be convincing to others. Up in the hills, he is challenged by the character of streams. They are too small, dispersed like capillaries, with unpredictable torrents, and inconsistent flows. He starts his imaginary battle with them: drawing, measuring, fighting in his mind with the unruly water in order the make it more efficient, tamed, and beneficial for electricity production. To counter the properties of streams and increase electricity production, he imagines kilometers-long pipelines which divert water from the riverbeds towards the set of interconnected power plants. This design solves all the issues he has been facing.

(this part would be the midpoint, and I still need to work it out – partition it and extend it into a few scenes involving struggles with the river and the pipelines)

**3rd act**: The engineer returns to the next meeting with a set of papers containing precise drawings, maps, and measurements – the result of his struggles in the mountains. These documents will serve as a blueprint for all future projects. His colleagues congratulate him, approving his work and slightly envying his capabilities.

Despite all the praise, something haunts the engineer. He has nightmares and wakes up in the dark to interchangeable sounds: screams of fish, curses of the locals, and deep silence by riverbeds that lost all the water to the pipelines. He is not entirely sure what he feels, but he starts to realize the consequences of his work and his approach to nature.

COMMENTS:

This is a well-developed subject, it has a clear argument that you want to make and a nice division in acts. There are however a few big questions

1. How are you gonna represent the FIGHT between the engineer and the rivers?
2. How will you sense of patriotism of the engineer come across and be represented? Graphically with something in the engineer house, or on his dress when he travel or flags or whatever? Or also verbally in the conversation?
3. Your work is really in 4 acts (act 4 being the conclusion) in this way you could think about how the theme of patriotism is represented and develops along those acts. As it is you have a classic AB AB structure in which A (act 1 and act 3 set the stage for the social dimension of the engineer work . i.e. energy, need of the nation, receiving accolade, maybe a new medal or something like that) and B \*act 2 and 4) are more oneiric setting describing the fight with water and the nightmares. Are these B sections somehow developing the theme of patriotism as well? Do they see it crumble? How do they relate graphically to each other?

Here I would also suggest that you start to create your how archive as you are in a specific historical moment.