

Representing the Interests of America's Industrial Energy Users Since 1978

BoilerBlast News[®]

Upcoming 2014 CIBO Meetings & Conferences

EE/Technical
Committee Meetings
Arlington, VA
March 4-5
June 10-11
Sept 9-10
Dec 2-3

The Fluidized Bed
Combustion and
Stoker Fired
Operations and
Performance
Conference
May 19-21

The Industrial
Emissions Control
Technology XII
Conference and
Natural Gas
Conversion
Workshop
Aug 4-7

The 36th Annual
Meeting
Oct 15-17
Santa Fe, NM

Contact CIBO

6801 Kennedy Road
Suite 102
Warrenton, VA
20187
Ph: 540-349-9043
Fax: 540-349-9850
cibo@cibo.org

Energy

Green House Gas Global Warming or Climate Change has once again been forced to the top of any Obama Administration initiative as indicated by the President in his State of the Union Address and his Climate Action Plan. While the focus of the general population and politics is on Obamacare, every executive agency is working with regulation's directives and enforcement to decrease CO2 emissions, their wholly espoused cause for Global Warming/Climate Change. In this effort, it surely looks like killing coal and raising the cost of energy to justify higher cost renewable (wind & solar) sources is changing the current energy use culture of the American people. Of course this does not consider the disproportionate impact on the poor, fixed income and less fortunate populations. Someday this may become the next big issue "Energy Justice" like Environmental Justice (EJ) – however, not if the environmental community has its way or EJ begins to consider social or economic impact on these populations.

On a more positive note, or maybe not, from the presentations by USGS and EIA at the Committee Meetings, it looks like in the short term US Natural Gas will be available at a reasonable cost (although probably not less than \$4.00/MMBtu) for the next 5 to 10 years. The main caution from both EIA and USGS was an uncertainty regarding international supply and demand implications for the US markets. If this Administration's aim is to continue to increase the cost of energy to make wind and solar economically competitive and attractive without government subsidies, a higher natural gas price is probably more of a reality than an expectation. For sure as the Senate leaves for the rest of the year, there will be no new energy legislation until next year.

Environment

Boiler MACT compliance plans are coming together for many companies and the news for some companies is not good. An article in Ashville, North Carolina's Homepage Citizen-Times, "Canton Mill Faces \$50 Million bill for EPA Fixes," indicated that if the plant cannot obtain about \$15 Million in grants and an extension in compliance time there was question of the Mill's ability to survive and the fate of its 1,000 workers. And, this is for converting their coal fired boilers to new natural gas units. If you know of other public examples like this please let us know. The estimates we generated from the cost projections and economic impact analysis we commissioned indicated the US could see over 190,000 jobs put at risk from the Boiler MACT Regulations as they were finalized. If you have not checked out the minutes and presentations from the Quarterly Committee Meetings you might want to do that. The next three months should be some of the most interesting we have ever seen. There have been reports that the EPA, environmentalist and recyclers have reached a deal with EPA agreeing to complete a final Ash Rule by the end 2014. There is still legislation working up on the Hill in this regard and that will probably be coming out in the March/April time period. As this develops next year, we will keep you informed. Water regulations were discussed in a presentation on a report of the Council of Mayors where they were able to the negative impact on the poor, fixed income and less fortunate populations. The cost burden of water regulations could have determined a similar impact as the MACT air rules do on our members and industry as a whole. We may want to consider a way to assess these costs as the regulations develop. EPA has never considered the negative social and economic impacts of the regulations it produces. And, as we heard at the Annual Meeting, they use outdated, biased and ultra-conservative methodologies for determining the projected benefits. As we look to 2014, there will be much to keep us busy.

Technical

The Focus Group Session, "Boiler MACT Risks and Quantification/Mitigation," at the Committee Meetings was excellent. Presentations by Dale Overcash of Trinity Consultants, Inc. "New Source Boiler MACT Compliance Case Study," and Bob Fraser of Environmental Resources Management, "Natural Gas Conversion Assessments," were very timely and informative.

These and the other presentations from the December Committee Meetings are on the website.

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2014 Conferences & Meetings Schedule

Next year's conferences are scheduled and venues selected.

The Fluidized Bed Combustion and Stoker Fired Operations and Performance Conference will be held May 19-21 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey Pennsylvania.

The Industrial Emissions Control Technology XII Conference and Natural Gas Conversion Workshop will be held by popular demand again in Portland, Maine, Aug 4-7.

If you would like to submit a presentation, topic for consideration, or assist in the planning, send an e-mail to gail@cibo.org. We will be focusing on the agenda development for both conferences in early January with a member priority cutoff date of March 14, 2014 for The FBC/Stoker Operations & Performance Conference and May 14, 2014 for the IECT Conference. After that non-member presentation and exhibit space requests will be considered.

The Quarterly Committee Meetings at the Radisson, Crystal City, Virginia will be the Tuesday and Wednesday of March 4-5, June 10-11, September 9-10 and December 2-3.

The 36th Annual Meeting will be held at Hotel Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico on October 15-17.

From the President's Desk – Bob Bessette

As we enter the last two weeks of 2013, it doesn't seem like it wants to go away. There is a heaviness that wants to hang around. Thank goodness for the children and grandchildren – their class band and musical sessions, the local festivities and decorations and the life and spirit they engender. There is Hope! I think that this is what this time of year is all about. And, in that Hope, we can find the Peace and Joy, the rest, relaxation and rejuvenation of family, friends and all good things – the lights, the parties, the wrappings, the cookies and pastries and special treats of the season, the giggles and smiles – the oh so many things that can take us from the heaviness of the days to the Hope of the Future. God bless you with the Peace and Joy of the Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!