Energy

Energy Legislation is moving in both the Senate and House. There are over 100 Bills in the Senate grouped under four subject areas for now: Accountability, Supply, Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency. In the House they are developing a broad based national energy plan under “The Architecture of Abundance” with four Titles: Infrastructure, Workforce, Energy Diplomacy and Efficiency and Accountability. A detailed listing of both the House and Senate bills is on the Members’ only website with a short description of those we believe to be important to the industrial and institutional energy sectors and a link to the Bill text. Hill visits last Wednesday following the Committee Meetings focused on this and our message that thermal energy is indeed important and must be considered when any energy legislation is finalized. Energy is not only electricity, and, anything that raises the cost of energy (electric &/or thermal) raises the cost of anything we make or do. This cost increase disproportionately impacts at risk populations and possibly jeopardizes the standard of living of our people and the competitiveness of our country. Our members should have received copies of the listing of the Bills and a one page “Goals for 21st Century Energy Legislation” last week. If you did not and would like to be on the distribution list let us know. There is one last hearing in the Senate this week with two weeks to enter comments for the record. We will be entering comments based on what our members would like to see. PURPA modification for CHP is one of the subject we will address. Any time PURPA comes up, our utility “friends” will always be there to “help us in any way possible.” One of the reasons our voice is so important along with other groups like ELCON and primary Industry Trade Associations. Take some time to look over the legislation and send in your thoughts and comments by next Tuesday for incorporation within our submission.

CIBO’s Energy Committee is a Policy Committee that, in a sense, is the foundation for everything that CIBO does. It addresses the foundation of what we do to ensure that our members can continue to provide safe, cost-effective and reliable energy to sustain a strong and globally competitive economy. One part of this is to promote fuel flexibility from the policy, regulatory and technology aspects – a true “all of the above” energy strategy and address the myriad of activities that are being promoted to limit our use and choice of fuels. As such, we will begin the formation process of a Fuels Sub-committee to specifically address fuel related concerns. Initial thoughts are this will be a new type committee – web based with maybe one in-person meeting per year. If you are interested in being part of the formation process (we have a chairman), let us know. We expect to have a conference call to address scope, mission, objectives and operation during the middle of July.

Environment

Each quarter when we have our Committee Meetings in D.C./Arlington when we go over everything that is going on including visiting select Senate and Congressional people on the Hill in the brief span of around 33 hours, that we realize how much is going on, and how much the energy and environmental issues we cover are interrelated. While we wait for the Boiler MACT reconsideration, we continue to supply information to EPA on Start-up/Shut-down and the use of O2 Trim for compliance. We should see that before the Annual Meeting. There is a chance although slim we will see it at the beginning of August. All the presentations from the meeting are up on the members’ only side of the web. The meeting summary should be up in a week or so. While we were in our June Quarterly Meetings, the final definition of Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule had just come out; and, on initial review, it was more cumbersome than the proposed rule. The next battle with the extreme environmentalist factions will be regarding water. This could be bigger and more complicated than either air or GHG issues, because it opens the door for the EPA to get inside the fence line of your facility. The more we hear about it since the meeting the more threatening it is. It is as if the Administration and its supporters (the Radical ENGOs) are pulling out all the stops to get their pet issues out the door and protected as much as possible from Congressional meddling then locked up in the court system long enough for the compliance date to pass to make sure, right or wrong, it gets done. Someone once said, don’t ever underestimate the environmentalist. CIBO is here to help bring reason and balance to the laws and regulations. It is definitely keeping us busy.

On a more positive note, we agreed during the Environmental Committee meeting to contract with Jack Fuller at WVU to update the Boiler MACT Solid and Liquid Fuel Data Base. This information will be extremely valuable as we look at the cost of compliance for Ozone at different levels, above and beyond Boiler MACT, for different levels of a to be finalized Ozone NAAQS standard. An Ozone standard set at less than 70 PPM, impact natural gas fired boilers and mandate SCR levels of control. We are also working with the Midwest Ozone Group (MOG) and Alpine Geophysics to assess state and, hopefully facility, impacts. When you get a call from Jack or one of his workers, please help us ensure that our datasets are complete by supporting the survey.

Technical

The FBC and Stoker Operations and Performance conference was great in Baton Rouge, in April with content that addresses the operations and performance of all boilers and all fuels. There was great discussion and networking as we
discussed operations, maintenance efficiency optimization and the best ways to improve and keep the boilers and powerhouse running today and in the future. I think we found that operating natural gas fired boilers may not be as simple as some people may think. Based on what we have learned from this year’s conference, we will spend little if any time on rules and regulations and much more time on everything else – possibly including separate Monday breakout sessions for FBC, Stoker and Natural Gas and Oil fired owners. Next year’s conference will be back in Hershey, PA and include an optional tour of a local power plant to be able to see what we have been talking about. Thoughts and suggestions are always welcome.

Last week’s Focus Group Topic was “Instrumented and Actuated Systems.” Following on from our Members’ Annual Survey and the priority of technical issues CIBO should address, control systems was one of those with a high priority. The session was excellent. The difference in operations and control capabilities today as compared to only a few years ago is tremendous. It is possible to remotely operate boilers with virtually no on site control people. Improved efficiency, operations and performance, predictive maintenance, emissions control, monitoring reporting and recordkeeping can all be integrated within today’s DCS technologies. What will the powerhouse of the future look like? We will probably be paving the way for that next year in Hershey and as we focus on narrow topics during the future Focus Group Sessions on the Tuesday before our Quarterly Committee meetings.

**Industrial Emissions Control Technology XIII & Natural Gas Workshop – August 3-6, 2015 Portland, Maine**

This year’s IECT Conference and Natural Gas Workshop will focus on Environmental Compliance --

It is 99.9999% probable that we have to comply with the final BMACT rule as published following the reconsideration. As such, the IECT Conference with the Natural Gas Workshop will again bring to Portland the industrial and institutional communities’ best and brightest engineers and technical people and suppliers to talk about and focus on Environmental Compliance – What they have to do; what they are doing; how they are doing it; the results they are seeing and the questions that are coming up. If you are in the process you need to be there. If you don’t know what you have to do, you absolutely need to be there. If you think you have it covered, you may want to be there. If you are only now starting, “Houston! We have a problem!"

Four exhibit tables are still available. Contact Gail@cibo.org if you are interested.

Major Source boilers have until January 31, 2016. A one year extension, for valid reasons, to January 31, 2017 will be supported by US EPA and should be obtainable from most states.

As we enter into the implementation stage of MACT Compliance, networking (with peers, suppliers, engineers and regulators), case studies, real time compliance experience, and the transition from planning to implementation will be the prominent markers for this year’s program below. Registrations have been coming in. Check out the agenda and registration on the CIBO Website at [http://www.cibo.org](http://www.cibo.org). The Holiday Inn cutoff day is July 1, 2015. There are still some rooms left. If you have not made your reservations, the city of Portland has become a major tourist destination during the summer and rooms are becoming more difficult to find. As such, the probability of getting a room after the cut-off date could be very difficult.

**From the President’s Desk – Bob Bessette**

It is always good to start this little section welcoming a new member. Please welcome NG Advantage LLC. As providers of compressed Natural Gas as a potentially attractive alternative to a pipeline, I am sure they will be a valuable member helping us as we move into a new era of energy supply demand and utilization. In a new era of the US being an exporter of energy with energy generating wealth and it distribution throughout the economy, changes in the world oil price means exaggerated changes in our economy. High oil prices lead a distribution of wealth (some call it Rent) to the producers of oil/gas while a low oil/gas prices increase the distribution of wealth/rent to the consumers of energy manufacturing and general population. The direction from which we look at it can make all the difference in the world. And CIBO is right in the middle of it. We are starting to work on our Annual Meeting with a theme of “Transitioning to a New Energy Era.” Look for more information next month.

**We Proudly Profile:**

NG Advantage uses its “virtual pipeline” to deliver CNG to very large plants not on a gas pipeline or not on one large enough to allow for growth or for switching more equipment off of coal and liquid fuel oils.

Plant managers worry about MACT compliance, as well as about helping their plant stay competitive...and open.

The decision to pay for a pipeline extension is a long term, very expensive option….and takes many years. The decision to purchase expensive scrubbers is good but for how long? The decision to receive CNG delivered by a fleet of carbon-fiber tractor/trailers 24/7 gives flexibility to grow; requires much, much less capital; and lowers emissions. All in less than a year. NG Advantage provides intense service and training while bringing up a plant and monitors for safety and reliability 24/7 during the life of the contract. Contact Mary Esvlin Mevslin@ngadvantage.com for more info.