Energy  The Big News is that President Trump signed an Executive Order during the Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth Press Conference on March 28, 2017. This is just the beginning of this Administration’s defining what it will be doing and how it will be doing it. To employ the best peer reviewed scientific and economic information that is transparent data to reevaluate any rule that any agency believes will impact the development or use of US produced energy (All of the “Above” and All of the “Below” Fossil Energy).

Times are definitely changing. Our response to the Commerce Department’s information request to provide information of regulations and activities needed to promote energy will be sent in on the 31st. The issues we address are the NAAQS, NSR reform, treatment of Malfunctions under MACT Standards and Risk and Technology Reviews (RTR) under the overall NESHAP regulations. All of this, along with the information submitted by everyone will be rolled into the evaluation that is now beginning with the review of the Clean Power Plan rule all GHG regulations as the lead. Over the last eight years GHG and Environmental regulations have been the environmental tail of the energy dog doing the leading. It could very well be that the dog just bit its tail and put it back in its place. Real science and real technology, what CIBO does, is again in the spotlight.

In the more ordinary activity, the Trump Administration is facing significant Senate confirmation delays in getting their second tier leadership in place. The acting leadership that was held over from the Obama Administration is not necessarily on board with the Trump agenda. Proposed budget cuts to all departments to fund the increase in defense spending has put a heavy rubber mat over just about anything getting done to move the agenda. All the government regulations that helped cut jobs from industry doesn’t help those who think positively about their future in the real world. We are beginning to see those who have predicated business plans for technologies, equipment and services that are not economical in the real world but good for addressing a pet issue, coming to the media saying, don’t cut my piece of the pie for the good of the country. It is always easy to add but very difficult to cut programs once they are established. That is Jobs. We know what that is like with the Boiler MACT Rule. The dynamics of a bureaucracy that has been in place for eight years effectively moving anyone who was not 100% on board with the Obama agenda to an innocuous location where they could do nothing, left young Obama Minded Millennials to replace those workers and cement the Obama ideology. Hopefully by the time we get to the 39th Annual Meeting in Florida this October, the new people will be in place and we will begin to movement on things that can actually help our members do a better job and promote growth.

Environment  While the above bodes well for the future, environmental activity is not going away. The ENGO community has raised enormous sums of money to take their case to the people, the courts and the Congress – to attack any energy project and any perceived roll back of any rule from the projected levels set by the Obama Administration and block the Trump Administration, in any way they can, from getting anything accomplished – as we see above with department and agency leadership. Without this leadership there is a great deal of uncertainty at the staff level regarding what to move or how to move it. At this point, no one expects any new regulations for at least four years. However, there are plenty of regulations in the implementation stage and/or to be completed under court order that could impact each and every one of our facilities. Ozone will be the biggest and could impact industrial and institutional natural gas fired facilities as states look for reductions other than the mobile sector causing the majority of the problems. It is possible for most states to come into attainment by using the tools within the Clean Air Act, Exceptional Events and
International Transport. They are Ok with the Nature Made uncontrollable Exceptional Events. They are, on the other hand, not Ok with attainment “but for” international transport. The logic as relayed by a state official was, “the people in those areas will still be breathing unhealthy air.” As such, as long as there are areas where the air can be perceived as bad, or show as bad, or questioned as bad, our work will be cut out for us. Operations, performance, monitoring, reporting, recordkeeping and knowing and understanding industry best practices will be of critical importance. That is what CIBO is all about.

Technical

The Technical Focus Group session on Microgrids associated with the March Committee Meetings was very informative and timely. Ajay Kasarabada of Black & Veatch Corporation gave a Microgrid 101 presentation; Mark Bitto of ABB, Inc presented a Microgrid Case Study; and Ben Edgar of Black & Veatch Corporation presented a Business Case Consideration. Presentations are on the CIBO Members’ Only website.

Hopefully by the June Committee Meetings, CIBO will have up and running a new communications platform where presentations like this will be able to be recorded and posted for access by the members via just about any media at any time. This is being developed for the Technical Committee to be able to bring the operations, performance and maintenance information to them; as they want it; when they want it; and where they want it; without having to travel to get it. We established a task group at the last Committee Meetings that will be meeting via conference call in two weeks to consider the scope and content. We will be using the Higher Logic Platform that will be secure and flexible. If you are not already on the task group and would like to be involved in the planning process, let us know. We expect some of the content will be developed based on questions and need defined at the Boiler Operations, Maintenance and Performance Conference next month.

Boiler Operations, Maintenance, and Performance Conference - Bob Bessette

As I have always said, it is great to start by welcoming a new member Ware Inc. As we move from an era of regulatory development to one of ongoing compliance and sustainability where operations, performance and maintenance become critical, Ware Inc. brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table.

As the politics of Washington begin to clear up (maybe) and we settle down to move those issues like those we suggested to the Department of Commerce, the technical foundations upon which CIBO based will become so much more important. With the real science, engineering and technology insights, CIBO is able to bring to the discussion, for the first time in a long time I am optimistic with regard to what is achievable. See you in Pittsburgh next month.

2017 Events

Jun 6-7/Sept 12-13/Dec 5-6: Technical Focus Group, Energy & Environmental Committee Meeting / Hilton Garden Inn, Arlington, Virginia

Apr 24-26 - Boiler Operations, Maintenance & Performance Conf., Sheraton, Pittsburgh, PA Apr 27 Tour

Jul 31-Aug 3 - Industrial Emissions Control Technology XV Conference, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

Oct 18-20 - 39th Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra Resort, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

WE PROUDLY PROFILE;

WARE is a commercial and industrial boiler and chiller rental and service company that specializes in sales, service, valve repair, rentals, parts, training and turnkey projects. WARE offers an on-line parts store at BoilerWAREhouse.com and hands on boiler training at Boiler University.

With over 60 years of experience, WARE has become one of the largest boiler service companies in the southeast and one of the largest boiler rental companies in the United States. http://www.wareinc.com