Energy - The Government is back in operation until at least February 15th. The new Democratic controlled House of Representatives is in session, the Southern 48 States are colder than they have been in the last 50 years with another Polar Vortex and Energy is not one of the topics we hear about on the radio or television. It does not compete with “The Wall,” the migrant caravans, the call for oversight on the Administration’s environmental policy direction and Andrew Wheeler’s confirmation hearings and ultimate vote as EPA Administrator. We have supported his confirmation. One might think that energy would be more important than it seems to be. More people die due to the cold weather than they do from the hot weather. In many cases people do not think of energy until it is too late. Take for instance the Easter Islanders who used the last tree on the island to keep warm instead of using it to build a canoe to get them to another Island. Energy is still CIBO’s primary focus. We need energy. You can’t make or do anything without it. In the world of Climate Change, advocates (an awakening with the new House of Representatives), energy and our use of it, is the only thing that can change if the environment cannot go backwards; and, if global social responsibility must be maintained and improved. Our ability to help the new members of Congress understand the relationships between what we can really do and what we need to meet the drive for sustainability around the world will be critical. As Climate Change becomes a driver within the Congress, the environmental community and shareholder activists seek an increasingly transparent world where all information becomes public via the World Wide Web.

Environmental - January 3, 2019, our world changed when the majority in the House of Representatives shifted from relatively pro-business environmentally conservative Republican leadership to a more socialistically and environmentally motivated leadership. In an environment where legislation could be considered practically impossible for any environmental issue, oversight becomes the key tool in the opposition party’s tool box to affect the outcome of regulation and executive action. How does that work? It has to do with capturing the “High Ground” of the discussion or argument, or taking away or providing the cover (protection or support) for a planned action or ultimate goal (The Art of War by Sun Tzu; and, On War by General Carl von Clausewitz). These are the real life stories that support an argument; showing what is needed is good and capturing the High Ground. The D’s now control the battle. While the Senate may be able to prevent any wild excursions in either direction, Industry and the Administration are now on notice that they will have to prove they are doing the right thing for the environment against the visceral arguments of “Roll Back,” Gutting the Clean Air Act and Climate Change Denial. The stories of the social and environmental good
that we do or that of the products we make will become increasingly more important if anything we need is to be accomplished. Transparency, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and the internet are allowing the public to compare what we do, to what we say in almost real time. Talking about policy, planned actions and what can be done will not be enough. Doing something, anything, and allowing it to be seen will become the norm. Figuring out how to do it; finding the best ways to do it; and, then helping our members’ use the information, is when CIBO is at its best. Much of this will come together at the March 5-6 Technical Focus, Energy & Environmental Policy Committee Meetings in Crystal City, Virginia.

Technical - Power house, energy, and boiler system integrated operations performance and maintenance is beginning to grow in importance as the new energy system operators are coming in to replace the retiring older generation. There is a growing need to present the technical foundations for getting the most out of a facility at the lowest cost and with the absolute best environmental footprint and understanding why. For those of us old guys, it is like going back to the old days of Marmaduke in Power magazine. While books, the Internet and YouTube are good, they usually don’t get you to the “Why”. This is one of the objectives of the Technical Committee in the Focus Group discussions and within the Powerhouse/Energy/Boiler Operations Performance and Maintenance Conference.

CIBO’s 2019 Conferences and Meetings

There is a lot going on. The best way to find out is to click on the meeting link to the draft agendas. There are a couple of things you will note: The agendas have been put together based on what the members would like to see, there are some To Be Determined places. If you are interested or know of someone to fill that spot you should let us know. The meetings are very different in focus and content. There will only be two Energy and Environmental Policy Committee Meetings this year – each with a Focus Group session and an associated visit to Capitol Hill for Congressional staff visits or briefings. The Technical Focus Group Session at the March 5-6 EE Meetings will be “Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute Annual Report”. To get a better idea of what’s going on, click on the links to take you to the agendas. https://www.cibo.org/eet-committee-meetings/

The CIBO 2019 Technical Focus, Energy & Environmental Policy Committee Meetings: March 5-6 Hilton Garden Inn, Crystal City, Virginia

The Boiler Operations, Maintenance, and Performance Conference will be held May 7-9 in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This conference will focus on outages. As with all CIBO conferences, CIBO members have presentation priority. The draft agenda is on the CIBO website. https://www.cibo.org/bomp-conference/

The Industrial Emissions Control Technology XVII Conference will be held in Portland, Maine, August 5-8.

Planning for the IECT this year has begun. We will be focusing much of our attention on project permitting, as well as, case study compliance presentations. If you would like to participate in the planning process, contact Gail now at < Gail@cibo.org >. https://www.cibo.org/industrial-emissions-control-natural-gas-conference/

The Implementing Sustainability – Management & Best Practices Conference will be held in Crystal City, Virginia, September 11 & 12. This conference will focus on sustainability projects to meet corporate and institutional sustainability goals. Case studies always have priority. https://www.cibo.org/implementing-sustainability-conference/

There are 6 exhibit tables available.

CIBO’s 41st Annual Meeting will be held at the Stoweflake resort in Stowe, Vermont October 16 – 18. The Annual Meeting focuses on a higher level regarding what the drivers will be for the generation, application and use of energy at our industrial and institutional members – to address what energy and environmental questions the corporate or institutional CEO and President will face within the coming year. This will help us think about the potential answers before the questions come to us for answers. https://www.cibo.org/annual-meeting/

The CIBO 2019 Technical Focus, Energy & Environmental Policy Committee Meetings: December 10-11 Hilton Garden Inn, Crystal City, Virginia
From the President’s Desk –
Bob Bessette - As you are receiving this on Monday evening or Tuesday morning, you should have already seen a new CIBO Energy and Environmental Policy Statement. It is very good. It helps define who we are, who CIBO is, what we do and what we stand for. CIBO has always been the group that will figure out the best way of doing something, if it can be done, and then helping our members and industry as a whole make it happen. A Link to the final Energy and Environmental Policy Statement will be put up on the front page of CIBO Website. While this document doesn’t talk about the technical foundation upon which CIBO is based, I think you can see what we do as you check out our activities and agendas. 2019 should be a great year for CIBO and making headway on the full range of our energy and environmental activities. I will end with a question to ponder. While many things and issues seem to overshadow energy, it is impossible to make or do anything without it; and, survival depends on it. Like the “Chicken or the Egg,” which came first, the energy or the action?