



# Boiler Blast News



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

NOVEMBER 2019

## Elections November 5th

At the 41st Annual Meeting in October, Heidi Scheuermann, the local Republican State Representative (one of only three republicans in the Vermont State House) talked to us about how all politics is local and how each of us should get involved. Last Tuesday's elections tend to bear this out. Regardless of the national politics and past history, the loss of the Republican Governor in Kentucky and the change in Virginia to a 100 % Democratically controlled government, both of these campaigns focused on local issues (Line-In-The-Sand-Issues) for or against President Trump. These elections begin to set the politics of everything that will follow. Everything, energy, environment and even technical issues, will be impacted as you will begin to see below. We will hear about what might happen in the House and Senate in a couple weeks.

## Energy

Have you ever heard of the "Green New Deal," "Clean Energy" or "Climate Change" and a CO2 Tax? For those of you who are reading this the answer is probably yes. By the time we get through June of next year before the election, everyone will be talking about it and driving toward it – Zero CO2 Emissions by some date in the future. If politics or political scientists were all that mattered to get something done, this may be well and good. However, some of the other scientists like Mechanical Engineers, Chemical Engineers, Chemists, Physicists and Civic/Environmental Engineers may have something to say about that. Making it happen is where we play. At last week's Distributed Energy Conference, where the energy solutions providers and mostly utilities and utility grid operators gather to talk about Clean Energy, integrating Renewable Energy, Combined Heat and Power and conventional clean energy assets into a resilient Grid, we heard that this may not be as easy as

some of the political scientists would have the public believe. The presentations, while offering hope and success in doing this also highlighted the problems, the lack of standard, cost effective solutions to do it and the limited number of applications where it has been done – mostly commercial and residential, not industrial. It was agreed by all that to achieve any of the targets proposed by states, industrial and institutional energy would have to be included. Grid Resilience was the buzz word of the conference and those in attendance. The curtailments in California by PG&E has elevated the idea of resilience to the level of critical. What happens if you cannot depend on the utility to have the electricity available when you need it? Maintaining an energized and stable grid is much more complicated than what would seem to be from experience of having lights and electricity at the flick of a switch or insert of a plug. This will be a challenge that we will begin to address in December at the Committee Meetings.

## Environment

The elections last week brought in a strong sense of change to be expected in the 2020 Presidential election, the environmental community is prepping for major changes in the way environmental regulations, compliance reporting, and environmental enforcement are being carried out by the current administration. When you look at the headlines in the "Inside EPA" publications and look at the court rulings and the environmentalist's claims, it is surely a given that if there is a new administration the world of environmental compliance will be very different. The New York State 126 petition naming 15 CIBO Members non-EGU plants within a total of 169 facilities listed is a good indication of the sources to be target in the future. If a facility is still burning coal, "Oh My"! The drive to eliminate the use of fossil fuels – even Natural Gas – will increase the complexities of making the thermal energy needed to support our industries and institutions. With an understanding of the political, litigation and public pressures in Washington it is possible to see why it is taking so long for some of the current administration's actions to be completed. Actions that will help our industry and institutions do a better job making the energy needed to do the things they do to support our living conditions, improving and maintain our environment and stay in business at the same time. We are seeing a lot of activity and expecting many publications before the end of the year or very early in 2020 such that they may be finalized before the middle of the year prior to the time when a new administration can pull them back or a new Congress and Senate can take control of them under the Congressional Review Act. The

ENGO Community and government bureaucrats not necessarily supportive of the administration's policies will be and are doing everything and anything possible to delay anything that directly or indirectly could support the continued use of fossil fuel. We will hear about this in a couple weeks. In any case, understanding the environmental landscape will be of critical importance for all our members as they look to implement their sustainability goals and objectives.

## Technical

One of the best presentations at the 41st Annual Meeting was from Mark Mihaly, Dean Emeritus, at Vermont Law School. He talked about his appreciation for engineers. He said the young people coming up are making plans and setting goals and objectives today they do not know how to achieve. He said even though they get little if any credit, engineers have always done it and will do it again. This will be a truly interesting time. The questions and problems of integrating process energy and utility operations and performance are new and different from those associated with combusting fossil fuels in a boiler to be able to comply with an ever changing landscape of environmental regulations. New questions like, what is resilience? How do you calculate the cost of CO<sub>2</sub>? How do you integrate a renewable resource into your plant energy operations? What are the limitations and potential applications of a battery system or rectifier? Can I do without thermal energy? How can I keep my current operations up and running? Where do I get operators? Do I need operators? Can I, or how do I, convert from fossil fuel or keep my fossil fuel running. Who knows this stuff? There was a

great discussion at the Annual Meeting about where CIBO should be going. We will be tackling what is resiliency this December at the Committee Meetings and incorporating some of the topics above within the May Boiler Operations, Maintenance and Performance Conference (BOMP) in Hershey, PA. We are looking to work with the Combined Heat and Power Alliance to address distributed generation, renewable energy system and battery storage within the industrial and institutional power systems as we plan the September Conference. When you think about what is happening on the environmental side, or what could happen, the Industrial Emissions Control Technology Conference (IECT) in Portland, Maine at the end of July should be great. CIBO continues to be the only place where we can bring the engineers together from the facility owners, equipment suppliers, engineering and consulting companies to solve the problems that come from trying to answer the questions above.

## Upcoming Technical/Focus Group, Energy & Environmental Committee Meetings, December 10 and 11, 2019

As indicated above this December's Committee Meetings in Washington (Crystal City by National Airport) should be interesting considering the changes and the full-fledged beginning of the 2020 election cycle. Check out the agenda on the website. In a way this is a continuation of our Annual Meeting Theme, 20/20 Vision for a Sustainable Energy Future as we begin to focus more on the direct plant and facility situation.

## **CIBO's 41st Annual Meeting**

Stowe, Vermont was great again. The meeting content was excellent and the look at the current activities helped provide a good sense of what a sustainable energy future might be and where it might be going. The presentations are on the Higher Logic Website along with Carl Bozzuto's (CIBO Consultant) Summary. On those things that are not included in the summary, but probably looked forward to by many, the annual Gerry Debban Golf Tournament raised over \$700 for the Washington Children's Hospital, The Annual Thorn in the Side was awarded to Scott Darling who truly deserves it. We inducted two new Honorary Members, Mark Calmes and Rob Kaufmann, and, an informal discussion session on Friday with Mark Calmes, Rob Kaufmann and John deRuyter was great. Coming out of the discussions on Friday afternoon was a direction to look at the scope of issues and activities CIBO will need in the future. You should see a "Survey Monkey" survey within the next week. This survey will be extremely important in light of the changes happening as mentioned above. When you get it, please take the 15 minutes or so it will take to complete it.

## **From the President's Desk – Bob Bessette**

These last few months preparing for the Annual Meeting, seeing the elections, preparing for the EE Committee Meetings coming up in a few weeks, and grappling with the new questions and directions has been enlightening. It is not the same as it was only a year ago. In preparing for the survey, it's hard to imagine we actually cover such a broad range of issues and that we are

probably the only place where the owners and users come together with the suppliers and consultants to help implement policy at the facility and operations level while at the same time impact policy development with information on what is scientifically and technically possible. We do some rather remarkable things together. The survey, mentioned above that is coming is important. Your participation is what makes CIBO what it is. Thank you.