

February 2013
Springing into Action with NIBS, the Navy, and NIA's Convention

As you have no doubt heard, most of the talk in Washington, DC continues to center around the issue of budget sequestration, which went into effect on March 1 and triggered across-the-board cuts of \$85 billion. Talk will quickly change to debate on how to handle the expiration of the current bill funding the federal government that expires on March 23. Without quick action from Congress and a package to extend government funding, the federal government faces the prospect of a shutdown.

With all of that said, the National Insulation Association (NIA) and The Keelen Group have continued successful meetings and outreach efforts concerning the mechanical insulation industry and H.R. 184, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act. The bill currently has five cosponsors, and we are expecting many more to sign on shortly. We are also encouraged by the continued push by Representative Dave Camp (R-MI), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, to enact broad-based tax reform legislation this year. These efforts were further buoyed recently by the Speaker of the House stating that H.R. 1 will be reserved for tax reform legislation. We look forward to working with our champions, Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) and Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY) to ensure that our legislation is pushed to be included in any final package.

National Institute of Building Sciences-Consultative Council

A report currently being drafted by the National Institute of Building Sciences-Consultative Council indicates: "Buildings and their related infrastructure are complex. High-performance buildings optimize numerous attributes to achieve the buildings people need and the characteristics they desire. Bringing complex buildings in line with these characteristics, while avoiding unintended consequences, requires a robust and comprehensive research program. The National Institute of Building Sciences Consultative Council has identified several key elements of such a program."

The Council and its member organizations, including NIA, will be issuing a report in March/April to the President and Congress that strongly encourages "policymakers, foundations and research institutions to provide financial, political and technical support for research in the following areas:

- *"Developing more widely accepted metrics to demonstrate payback periods for energy and water-efficiency code provisions, as well as better methods" to present how code updates are based on "the latest knowledge and experience to protect public safety..."*
- *"Gathering, collating and understanding data on current energy and water use in buildings..."*

- *"Health and environmental impacts and appropriate water quality requirements of non-potable water usage to protect public health and safety..."*
- *"Identifying procedures for decentralized water quality management..."*
- *"Developing an improved understanding of the complex relationship between energy and water, including water usage needs in the production of energy, and energy usage needs in the treatment of drinking water and waste water, the distribution of drinking water and the various uses and heating of water."*
- *"Quantifying the potential energy and water savings associated with increasing the use of pipe insulation."*
- *"Defining the extreme environments for which facilities should be designed, constructed, operated, maintained or renovated, and facilitating development and implementation of standards, practices and regulations to support adaptation of the build environment to a changing climate..."*
- *"Developing and disseminating model practices for public involvement for specific building types and infrastructure projects..."*
- *"Establishing and demonstrating model processes to streamline regulation for important classes of building and infrastructure projects..."*
- *"Investigating the current code enforcement and verification process relative to the actual achievement of code requirements."*

Identifying and Filling the Research Gaps

The Council identified three specific areas that are needed to fill the research/information gaps to achieve a holistic, science-based methodology to achieving high-performance buildings:

- Time Dependent Value of Energy Time
- Updating Water Supply Pipe Sizing Requirements for Buildings
- Energy and Water Savings Associated with Increased Use of Thermal Insulation

NIA, working with other organizations, will be the primary lead on the thermal insulation research area.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Presentations

NIA was invited to participate with AGL Energy Services and Cherokee Energy Management and Construction in a series of presentations, February 12-13, with NAVFAC personnel at the Little Creek/Fort Story and Norfolk Naval Station facilities in Virginia Beach and Norfolk, Virginia.

Two of the presentations focused on the benefits of mechanical insulation and demonstrations of the Simple Calculators. The third was an early morning roundtable discussion with Norfolk Navy Station shop personnel about mechanical insulation and how they can help identify energy-saving opportunities within the facilities.

All of the presentations were well received. The following e-mail message (quoted, in part) was received after the presentation: *"I wanted to let you know that we are working on an energy audit*

for the local Veterans Administration Hospital. They have missing insulation on multiple steam-to-hot water converters and also on their chilled water pumps. I'm using your insulation calculator today to arrive at numbers for those Energy Conservation Measures. I probably would have let that slide before I saw your presentation."

In addition, NIA is working to develop a pilot mechanical insulation assessment program for NAVFAC's Steam Distribution System at the Norfolk Naval Station. This program would be similar to the State of Montana Pilot Program, which was completed in January 2011.

I hope that you have made your arrangements to attend NIA's 58th Annual Convention, April 17-20, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, Florida. If not, I do hope that you plan to join us. For more information about registration, hotel reservations, the schedule of events, and more, please visit www.insulation.org/convention/13/.

Regards,
Michele M. Jones
Executive Vice President/CEO