

October 2012

Advancements in Energy Efficiency Legislation and a Milestone for Mechanical Insulation

Dear NIA Member,

With many legislative priorities currently sidelined, energy efficiency has won the attention of the Senate with the passage of the Enabling Energy Saving Innovation Act of 2012, H.R. 4850. This bill passed the Senate in late September by unanimous consent. It was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-Alabama) and passed on June 26, 2012. Originally, the bill only included a standards alteration to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (Pub.L. 94-163). After the bill reached the Senate, Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-New Mexico), Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire), and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) added amendments focused on energy efficiency in the industrial sector and federal agencies. Amendments to the overarching Enabling Energy Savings Innovations Act include the following elements from the Shaheen-Portman national energy efficiency strategy:

Industrial Efficiency

- Coordination of research and development of industrial efficiency technologies
- Study of barriers to the deployment of industrial energy efficiency
- Study of advanced energy technology manufacturing capabilities
- Establishment of an industrial technologies steering committee

Energy Efficiency at Federal Agencies

- Clarification that funds may be used to update old project designs
- Implementation of best practices for advanced metering
- Requirement that federal facilities post energy and water use data
- Redefinition of renewable energy consumption requirements
- Study on federal data center consolidation

For a full recap of this bill, go to <http://ase.org/resources/enabling-energy-saving-innovations-act-2012-section-section-summary>.

Reaching the Masses

On October 25, industry veterans Chris Crall, P.E., and Ron King, NIA past president and consultant, presented "Know the Benefits of Your Mechanical Insulation Projects" during a webinar sponsored by NIA, the Southern California Gas Company, and the Climate Registry. This webinar was specifically arranged for the Southern California Gas Company customer base and NIA members. During the webinar, Ron and Chris demonstrated how to use free, simple, online tools that help evaluate mechanical insulation projects. The presentation included an overview of the Mechanical Insulation Design Guide (MIDG) and simple calculators, which provide an instant snapshot of the benefits of mechanical insulation including energy savings, payback periods, rate of return, net present value, and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Participants in this webinar included Southern California Gas Company customers, architects, specifiers, engineers, facility managers/owners, maintenance managers/engineers, service contractors, and NIA members.

Major Milestones: Insulation Energy Appraiser Program (IEAP) reaches 1,000 Certified Appraisers

It is with great excitement and pride that we announce the IEAP has exceeded 1,000 certified appraisers. The IEAP began in 2001 with just 28 participants taking the class and earning their certification. Now, 11 years later, we are proud that this program has gained so much momentum and is being utilized to demonstrate the value mechanical insulation has for mechanical systems. For a list of NIA member IEAP certified appraisers, or for information on class schedules, please visit www.insulation.org/training/.

National Election

I couldn't wrap up this month's *Advocate* without commenting on the election. To be honest, I am looking forward to not seeing, hearing, or reading any more on pre-election campaigning! I am ready for an administration to focus on the job at hand, and Congress to focus on doing what its members are elected to do. I have to think there is a better way to go about the election process and believe that there should be a group appointed to oversee this process. I would love to hear your opinion and thoughts. Email me at mjones@insulation.org and let me know what you think.

By this time next month we will have elected our president. In the November 2012 edition of the *Insulation Advocate* we will update you on the effects this election will have on NIA's legislative strategy and what that means for you! Thank you for your commitment to NIA and the Foundation.

Regards,



Michele M. Jones

Executive Vice President/CEO