



TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Vol. 5.2 - May 2018

How We're Walking the Talk

Our slogan at NAES Engineering – ‘You Don’t Have to Go It Alone’ – isn’t just marketing hype. Whether you work at a NAES-operated plant or another facility, we know you come upon performance problems and other technical issues that fall outside the usual scope of your O&M duties. That’s where we can help...and we move quickly once we know you’ve got something that’s giving you trouble. Here’s our updated [Engineering Go-To Sheet](#) to help you connect with the right person.

To make this support system work even better, we’re now merging our Engineering and Technical Services teams – formerly parts of NAES Energy Solutions – into the newly formed O&M Services department. This move aligns home office resources more directly with our boots on the ground – the O&M staffs who operate 160-odd power plants. This will benefit our external clients as well by giving them more access to what sets our support services apart from competitors’ offerings – the vast tribal knowledge of the NAES Fleet.

This issue of *Technically Speaking* offers a cross section of that knowledge. Gregg Massar advises on how to do capability testing right the first time – and get the most benefit from it. Megan Matthews explains how to customize your Maximo CMMS to meet your plant’s specific needs and lighten your workload. Greg Fynan uses one plant’s repair problem to address a bigger question: when is it okay to use threaded couplings in high-pressure applications? Finally, Dave Righthouse explains the intent of our Management of Change process and suggests some ways to improve it. We hope these articles bring you news you can use. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Ian Goepferd – General Manager, O&M Services, NAES Corporation



Capability Testing – Done Right, It Yields Tangible Benefits: There are many good reasons to do capability testing, most of them compulsory. But plants sometimes run into unpleasant surprises because they’ve never operated outside a very conservative zone and don’t know their system’s limitations or trip setpoints. [Gregg Massar](#) explains how to get it done safely and effectively.

Don’t Work for Maximo; Make Maximo Work for You: While most facilities use their Maximo CMMS ‘as is’ out of the box, some NAES plants customize theirs to gather more information, report on specific aspects of their O&M and otherwise enjoy benefits they wouldn’t have with the out-of-the-box version. [Megan Matthews](#) describes some of her favorite Maximo customizations.



Threaded Pipe Joints for High-Pressure Applications – The Details Matter: Threaded joints should be avoided in power piping applications and are prohibited in many cases. In situations where they are permitted, their use has numerous restrictions based on pressure, location and system. Greg Fynan advises on what factors need to be considered before going ahead with a threaded joint.

Management of Change Needs More ‘Yellow Hat Thinking’: Root cause analysis (RCA) expert [Dave Righthouse](#) borrows this concept from Edward de Bono’s *Six Thinking Hats* to emphasize that staying focused on a positive outcome will ensure that changes based on an RCA investigation get implemented safely, compliantly and in line with the client’s expectations.

