



Your Boss Wants to Talk to You About Continuous Improvement.... Now What?

As plant operators, you deserve to have the means to achieve continuous improvement: the best tools and processes available to ensure safe, efficient, reliable operations. Challenging the status quo at your plant, maturing in your role and promoting new beliefs are some of the keys to continuous improvement. If you're looking for actionable ideas to improve operations – or to put in front of your boss – this is one place to start. Every edition offers ideas – particularly to those who are hungry for new ways of doing things. We hope they'll help you in some small way. Here are a few you'll find below:

- Implementing corrective actions derived from a root cause analysis – at your plant or someone else's – is one sure way to improve.
- Committing to detailed outage planning when doing upgrade or design change projects – including environmental considerations – can help you defend against unwanted project consequences.
- Exploring and implementing best practices from other plants might be an item you want to add to your team meeting agenda.
- Making sure you have the right maintenance management system is one piece of low-hanging fruit to go after. Another thought: Bring your CMMS skills up to date by attending the [NAES Maximo Training Workshop and User Group](#).
- Being completely prepared for your next outage can be a great feeling. Even better: declaring your team's readiness to your key stakeholders and asking for their feedback.

If you don't want to go it alone on your quest for continuous improvement, the NAES Engineering Team is here to help you challenge the status quo at your workplace.

— [Henry Scheck](#), General Manager, Engineering & Technical Services, NAES Corporation



Outage Planning - Are You Ready to Execute?: If you've conducted a disciplined and systematic planning process, you can approach your outage start date with confidence. [Brian Beatty](#) walks you through it and explains why you should hold an outage readiness review at T minus two weeks with your owners, VPs, asset managers and other key stakeholders.

Let 2018 Be the Tipping Point for Your Facility's RCA Program: We may initially view a root cause analysis as a long, drawn-out process that needlessly ties up several people, but [Dave Righthouse](#) reminds us that an RCA often marks a 'tipping point' that permanently alters our perspective.



Outage Planning - Did You Consider Your Air Permit? Your outage plan is working and you're ready to knock this one out of the park, but...your air permit could need some attention. [Mary Turner](#) explains why you might have to modify your permit – or at least do a regulatory analysis.

Maximo 7.6 - Why You Should Upgrade or Switch to It: Many of you are currently using an older Maximo or another CMMS system that's working just fine. So why change? [Megan Matthews](#) gives you three excellent reasons to consider upgrading or switching to Maximo 7.6. For one, IBM has begun introducing improvements with each update, rather than bundling them all with the new version.



How to Check Your High-Voltage Primary Contacts - A Best Practice: Recently, a NAES-operated plant experienced a flashover in a generator breaker cubicle, which prompted a root cause analysis investigation. RCA expert [Dave Righthouse](#) offers a preventive procedure that resulted from it.