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REAFFIRMED 2022

**GUIDELINE FOR THE
OPERATION AND CLOSURE OF
CARBIDE LIME PONDS**

FOURTH EDITION

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NOTE—Technical changes from the previous edition are underlined.

NOTE—No technical information has been changed from the 2017 edition. This reaffirmed edition may include minor editorial changes.

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1 Introduction

This guideline has been written in response to the demand for information relating to the proper operation and closure of carbide lime ponds.

2 Scope and purpose

This guideline is intended for use by owners and operators of carbide lime ponds and others providing services to these entities. Its purpose is to provide guidance on how to responsibly operate and close carbide lime ponds associated with the manufacture of acetylene gas from calcium carbide.

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this publication, the following definitions apply.

3.1 Publication terminology

3.1.1 **Shall**

Indicates that the procedure is mandatory. It is used wherever the criterion for conformance to specific recommendations allows no deviation.

3.1.2 **Should**

Indicates that a procedure is recommended.

3.1.3 **May**

Indicates that the procedure is optional.

3.1.4 **Will**

Is used only to indicate the future, not a degree of requirement.

3.1.5 **Can**

Indicates a possibility or ability.

3.2 **Technical definitions**

3.2.1 **Calcium carbide**

Nonflammable chemical compound of calcium and carbon that reacts with water to produce acetylene gas and carbide lime.

3.2.2 **Carbide lime**

Calcium hydroxide (calcium hydrate) derived from the reaction of calcium carbide and water.

NOTE—Lime refers to carbide lime unless otherwise specified.

3.2.3 **Co-product**

Material such as lime slurry that is a product of a process produced for the general public's use and is ordinarily used in the form it is produced by the process.

NOTE—See Title 40 of the U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (40 CFR) Part 261.1(c) [1].¹

3.2.4 **Hazardous waste**

Soil waste as defined in 40 CFR 261 [1].

NOTE—In Canada, waste management is governed by provincial as well as federal regulations under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* [2]. Operators of lime ponds should reference the environmental regulations of the province where the lime pond is operated for specific definitions [1].

¹ References are shown by bracketed numbers and are listed in order of appearance in the references section.