



July 8, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The National Lime Association (“NLA”), representing approximately 95% of U.S. commercial lime production, is pleased to submit its fourth biennial report on lime industry trends in greenhouse gas intensity of lime products. This report is made pursuant to NLA’s June 11, 2003 commitment under the President’s ClimateVISION program. NLA is pleased to report that its members continue to make significant efforts to achieve the industry’s ClimateVISION commitment by 2012, despite the impacts of the economic downturn experienced in the last two years.

## **BACKGROUND**

The members of NLA have established a collective goal of reducing the intensity of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions per ton of product from energy use by 8% between 2002 and 2012.

Lime companies are employing a variety of strategies to achieve this goal, including physical modifications to lime kilns to improve energy efficiency, operational changes, increased reuse of byproducts, and use of alternative fuels. Because this is an aggregate goal, not all lime companies have the same intensity goal, depending on efficiency improvements achieved before 2002, and the kind of equipment the company operates.

## **IMPROVED CARBON INTENSITY TRENDS**

Between 2002 and 2010, the energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of lime products produced by NLA member companies has been reduced by an aggregate 5%, as shown in the chart below (values in the chart have been rounded for purposes of presentation):

Year	Energy-Related Emissions of CO <sub>2</sub> (million tons)	Product Produced (million tons)	Emissions Intensity from Energy Use (Energy-Related CO <sub>2</sub> tons per ton of product)	% intensity reduction from 2002 baseline
2002	12.9	19.1	0.68	baseline
2003	13.7	20.2	0.68	0
2004	14.6	21.5	0.68	0
2005	14.4	21.6	0.67	1.3
2006	14.7	20.6	0.65	3.4
2007	13.9	19.7	0.64	5
2008	13.7	19.8	0.65	3.4
2009	9.3	14.3	0.64	5

Between 2002 and the end of 2007, substantial reductions in intensity were achieved, in large part because of the completion of long-term capital projects. Notably, these projects include the installation of new energy-efficient kilns. Also, several companies made great strides in increasing the recycling of lime byproducts (e.g., lime kiln dust). As more byproducts are reused or sold as product, the total amount of energy used per ton of usable product is reduced, and thus intensity is reduced.

In 2008, however, efforts to improve efficiency were hampered by the overall economic downturn, which made it difficult to institute capital improvements, and reduced the ability to recycle byproducts. Results from 2009, however, show a return to the trend of reductions in intensity. Continuing economic weakness presents an ongoing challenge to these efforts.

## **PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

NLA members are pursuing more projects and strategies that will further contribute to reductions in energy-related intensity.

Because a substantial portion of the older, less efficient kilns have already been replaced, future reductions will have to result from innovative technologies and strategies on existing kilns. These will include even better control of manufacturing operations, even more recycling of byproducts, and identification of less carbon-intensive energy sources.

## **THE LIME INDUSTRY'S ONGOING COMMITMENT**

NLA and its members reaffirm their intention to use their best efforts to achieve our ClimateVISION goals. The ability of the lime industry to achieve, or exceed, its goals will depend on many factors, including partnership with the government and other entities, the state of the economy, and the economic health of the lime industry. NLA and its members look forward to working with your Department on meeting the goals of the program together.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Nast". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Nast  
President, National Lime Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arline M. Seeger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Arline M. Seeger  
Executive Director, National Lime Association