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Standard Guide for Framework for a Consensus-based Environmental Decision-making Process¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide presents a framework for a stakeholder-focused Consensus-based Environmental Decision-making (CBED) process, which is a stakeholder-empowered, process to prioritize and select actions to be initiated with the goal of optimizing many types of environmental decisions that may affect a community or communities.

1.2 This guide is intended to describe a highly flexible CBED process, and therefore does not recommend a specific course of action for this activity.

1.3 This guide is intended to assist in implementing a CBED process, which allows assessing the full impact of any project- or issue-related decisions related to human health, ecological, socio-cultural or economic impacts.²

1.4 This guide is not intended to replace existing environmental decision-making or public participation processes. It may be used with other processes or standards that address stakeholder involvement in environmental decision-making.

1.5 *Limitations*—This standard does not address the specific methods for generating or evaluating technical data related to assessing a particular environmental issues. The user should seek other sources on methods to gather information for completion of models or other analyses that may be used during a CBED process. This standard may not fully address the rights of owners of real property or the potential impact (positive or negative) on the value of real property of a decision made using this process.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E50 on Environmental Assessment, Risk Management and Corrective Action and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E50.05 on Environmental Risk Management.

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² The CBED process is not meant to replace other processes, such as the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The strength of the CBED process is to empower the stakeholders in an organized fashion to focus on specific issues that tend to result in litigation and long delays and can be readily used in conjunction with NEPA and/or other public participation processes.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

E1739 Guide for Risk-Based Corrective Action Applied at Petroleum Release Sites

E1984 Guide for Brownfields Redevelopment (Withdrawn 2012)⁴

E2205 Guide for Risk-Based Corrective Action for Protection of Ecological Resources

E2876 Guide for Integrating Sustainable Objectives into Cleanup

2.2 Other Documents:

P/CCRARM (The Presidential/Congressional Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management), 1997a, Framework for Environmental Health Risk Management. Final Report. Volume I.⁵

P/CCRARM (The Presidential/Congressional Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management), 1997b, Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Regulatory Decision-Making. Volume II.⁶

Quality of Stakeholder-Based Decisions and Understanding Risk⁷

40CFR, Part 1501-1506, The Quality of Stakeholder-Based Decisions: Lessons from the Case Study Record, Resources for the Future⁸

10CFR Part 20, NEPA and Agency Planning; "Standards for Protection Against Radiation," Subpart E, "Radiological Criteria for License Termination."⁸

Section 117(d) of the Marine Mammals Protection Act of

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

⁴ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁵ Available at <http://www.riskworld.com/Nreports/nr7me001.htm>.

⁶ Available at <http://www.riskworld.com/Nreports/nr7me001.htm>

⁷ Available at: <http://www.rff.org/Documents/RFF-DP-00-56.pdf>

⁸ Available from DLA Document Services, Building 4/D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, <http://quicksearch.dla.mil>.