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## HIGH TEMPERATURE HYDRATOR

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### Abstract

An apparatus includes a fluidized bed vessel with inlet ports arranged to receive a feed stream comprising calcium oxide, calcium carbonate, water, and a fluidizing gas into a fluidized bed vessel. The calcium oxide contacts the water to initiate a hydrating reaction to produce calcium hydroxide and heat. The fluidized bed vessel is configured to operate with a fluidization velocity that fluidizes and separates a portion of the calcium carbonate and a portion of the calcium oxide into a first fluidization regime, and a portion of the calcium hydroxide and at least another portion of the calcium oxide into a second fluidization regime. The apparatus further includes a heat transfer assembly configured to transfer heat of the hydrating reaction to the calcium carbonate, and a cyclone configured to separate a portion of the fluidization gas from at least one of the calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate, or calcium oxide.

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## **Background/Summary**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a continuation application of and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/324,806, filed May 19, 2021, which is a continuation of and claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/243,755, filed on Jan. 9, 2019, which is a divisional of and claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/591,324, entitled “High Temperature Hydrator,” and filed on May 10, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,214,448, which in turn claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/334,225, entitled “High Temperature Hydrator,” and filed on May 10, 2016, the entire contents of each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

## **TECHNICAL FIELD**

[0002] This disclosure describes systems, apparatus, and methods for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide.

## **BACKGROUND**

[0003] Calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide has been described, in which calcium oxide is reacted with water to produce either a fine, dry powder of calcium hydroxide or a slurry of calcium hydroxide in water. The resulting calcium hydroxide is used in calcium based caustic recovery processes such as the Kraft caustic recovery process employed by the pulp and paper industry.

## **SUMMARY**

[0004] In an example implementation, a method includes transferring at least one feed stream including calcium oxide calcium carbonate, water, and a fluidizing gas into a fluidized bed; contacting the calcium oxide with the water; based on contacting the calcium oxide with the water, initiating a hydrating reaction; producing, from the hydrating reaction, calcium hydroxide and heat; transferring a portion of the heat of the hydrating reaction to the calcium carbonate; and fluidizing the calcium oxide, calcium hydroxide, and the calcium carbonate into a first fluidization regime and a second fluidization regime. The first fluidization regime includes at least a portion of the calcium carbonate and at least a portion of the calcium oxide, and the second fluidization regime includes at least a portion of the calcium hydroxide and at least another portion of the calcium oxide. The first fluidization regime being different than the second fluidization regime.

[0005] In an aspect combinable with the example implementation, the second fluidization regime includes another portion of the calcium carbonate.

[0006] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, fluidization takes place using at least one fluidization velocity, the at least one fluidization velocity sufficient to cause the at least a portion of one of the calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide or calcium oxide to separate

from the at least a portion of the other calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide or calcium oxide into the first and second fluidization regime.

[0007] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the first and second fluidization regimes include a bubbling bed regime and at least one of a transport or turbulent regime.

[0008] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes transferring at least a portion of the heat to the calcium carbonate.

[0009] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes fluidizing at least a portion of the calcium carbonate in the bubbling bed regime; and fluidizing at least a portion of the calcium hydroxide in the transport or turbulent fluidization regime.

[0010] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the fluidizing gas includes steam.

[0011] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes recirculating a portion of at least one of the calcium oxide or the calcium hydroxide in the transport or turbulent fluid regime back into the fluidized bed; and based on the recirculating, increasing a residence time of at least one of the calcium oxide or calcium hydroxide in the fluidized bed.

[0012] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes generating steam from excess heat; and circulating the generated steam to provide heat or power to the at least one of a downstream heat consumer or power producers.

[0013] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes providing the water from at least one of a steam feed, a liquid water feed, or water from a wet calcium carbonate feed.

[0014] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes recirculating the fluidization gas that exits a fluidized gas outlet of the fluidized bed to a fluidization gas inlet of the fluidized bed.

[0015] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the method is part of a caustic recovery process.

[0016] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the caustic recovery process is part of at least one of a direct air capture process, a carbon dioxide capture process, or a pulp and paper process.

[0017] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, at least a portion of one of calcium carbonate, calcium oxide or calcium hydroxide are separated into at least two different fluidization regimes based on one or more of physical properties of the calcium carbonate, calcium oxide, or calcium hydroxide.

[0018] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the one or more physical properties includes at least one of density, particle size or shape.

[0019] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes at least one of heating or drying the calcium carbonate with at least one of a sensible heat of the calcium oxide or the produced heat of the hydrating reaction.

[0020] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, each of the calcium oxide, the calcium carbonate, the water, and the fluidizing gas are transferred into the fluidized bed in a separate feed stream.

[0021] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the calcium oxide and at least a portion of at least one of the water or the fluidizing gas are transferred into the fluidized bed in a first fluid stream, and the calcium carbonate and at least a portion of at least one of the water or the fluidizing gas are transferred into the fluidized bed in a second fluid stream that is separate from the first fluid stream.

[0022] In another example implementation, an apparatus includes a fluidized bed vessel that includes one or more inlet ports arranged to receive at least one feed stream including calcium oxide, calcium carbonate, water, and a fluidizing gas into a volume of the fluidized bed vessel, the

fluidized bed vessel including a zone where the calcium oxide contacts the water to initiate a hydrating reaction to produce calcium hydroxide and heat, the fluidized bed vessel configured to operate with a fluidization velocity that fluidizes and separates at least a portion of the calcium carbonate and at least a portion of the calcium oxide into a first fluidization regime, and at least a portion of the calcium hydroxide and at least another portion of the calcium oxide into a second fluidization regime, the first fluidization regime different than the second fluidization regime; a heat transfer assembly thermally coupled to the fluidized bed vessel and configured to transfer a portion of the heat of the hydrating reaction to the calcium carbonate; a cyclone fluidly coupled to the fluidized bed vessel and configured to separate a portion of the fluidization gas from a portion of at least one of the calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate or calcium oxide; and an outlet port configured to separate the fluidization gas from a portion of at least one of the calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and to discharge a portion of at least one of the calcium hydroxide, calcium carbonate or calcium oxide.

[0023] In an aspect combinable with the example implementation, the fluidized bed vessel is configured to contain a bubbling bed regime and allows for at least one of a circulating turbulent or transport regime.

[0024] Another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects further includes a solids classifier fluidly coupled to the fluidized bed vessel and the outlet port, the solids classifier configured to separate a portion of at least one of the calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide or calcium oxide from another portion of at least one of the calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide or calcium oxide.

[0025] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the heat transfer assembly is configured to transfer a portion of a heat contained in the calcium oxide feed stream to the calcium carbonate.

[0026] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the bubbling bed regime includes calcium carbonate and at least one of a transport or turbulent regime including calcium hydroxide.

[0027] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the fluidized bed vessel is configured to operate with a fluidizing gas including steam.

[0028] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the cyclone further includes a port fluidly coupled to a non-mechanical seal, the non-mechanical seal fluidly coupled to the fluidized bed vessel and configured to recirculate at least a portion of one of calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide or calcium oxide in the transport or turbulent fluid regime back into the fluidized bed vessel.

[0029] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the non-mechanical seal includes a loop seal.

[0030] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the at least one feed stream includes liquid water, the heat transfer assembly configured to transfer heat from the fluidized bed vessel to the liquid water to generate a steam stream.

[0031] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, in the heat exchange assembly includes a heat tubing system thermally coupled to the fluidization bed vessel, the heat tubing system configured to transfer a portion of a heat from the fluidization bed vessel to a fluid stream within the heat tubing system.

[0032] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the apparatus is thermally and fluidly coupled to a dense fluidized bed heat exchanger.

[0033] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the cyclone further includes a fluidly coupled port that is configured to enable the fluidization gas to recirculate back to the fluidization gas inlet port.

[0034] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the solid classifier is configured to separate at least a portion of the calcium carbonate from a portion of at least one of

the calcium hydroxide or the calcium oxide based on at least one of particle size or particle density.

[0035] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the solid classifier is configured to allow the at least one of calcium hydroxide or calcium oxide to return to the fluidized bed vessel.

[0036] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the solid classifier includes a cone and cap sloped stripper or a sieve.

[0037] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the apparatus is fluidly coupled to a caustic recovery process.

[0038] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the caustic recovery process includes a direct air capture process, a carbon dioxide capture process or a pulp and paper process.

[0039] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the at least one feed stream including calcium oxide, calcium carbonate, water, or a fluidizing gas further includes sensible heat, and the heat transfer assembly is configured to transfer at least a portion of the sensible heat to the calcium carbonate to enable at least one of heating or drying of the calcium carbonate.

[0040] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, each of the calcium oxide, the calcium carbonate, the water, and the fluidizing gas are transferred into the fluidized bed in a separate inlet port.

[0041] In another aspect combinable with any of the previous aspects, the calcium oxide and at least one of at least a portion of the water or a portion of the fluidizing gas are transferred into the fluidized bed in a first inlet port, and the calcium carbonate and at least one of at least a portion of the water or a portion of the fluidizing gas are transferred into the fluidized bed in a second inlet port that is separate from the first inlet port.

[0042] Implementations according to the present disclosure may include one or more of the following features. For example, this system includes multiple components, for example dryer, hydrators and heat exchange componentry, in a single unit. In some aspects, conventional components for hydrating processes, such as a dryer, hydrator and heat exchange equipment, are replaced by one fluidized bed reactor. The fluidized bed reactor unit has no moving parts, and as such has lower maintenance than systems with separate hydrator, dryer and heat exchanger units, which can require for example transport and/or conveying equipment (with moving parts). The high temperature fluidized bed hydrator unit has higher thermal efficiency than the previously separated equipment, due to having the process streams in direct contact with heat sources (for example, other process streams, fluidizing gases). By using process streams in this manner, the multiple approach temperatures associated with separate heat exchangers can be reduced, for example, from multiple approaches to a single approach. Furthermore, the steam produced within the high temperature hydrator unit can be used in other areas of a plant, for example to provide heat or steam for power generation. This aids in improving overall energy efficiencies of the systems within which a high temperature hydrator may operate.

[0043] The details of one or more implementations of the subject matter described in this disclosure are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features, aspects, and advantages of the subject matter will become apparent from the description, the drawings, and the claims.

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## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0044] FIG. 1 depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed.

[0045] FIG. 2 depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed and an optional water injection system.

[0046] FIG. 3A depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed, where circulating material may be recirculated.

[0047] FIG. 3B depicts another illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed, where circulating material may be recirculated.

[0048] FIG. 4A depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed, where material discharged from the bed is further processed.

[0049] FIG. 4B depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed, where material may be separated before being discharged.

[0050] FIG. 5A depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed and a system for indirectly transferring heat.

[0051] FIG. 5B depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed and a system for indirectly transferring heat.

[0052] FIG. 6 depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed and a system for indirectly transferring heat.

[0053] FIG. 7 depicts an illustrative system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed connected with another system.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0054] The present disclosure describes example implementations of a high temperature hydrator system that may enable two or more solid feedstocks and any resulting solid reaction products to separate into two distinctly different fluidization regimes, based on the different solid physical properties, such as density, particle size distribution and shape. For example, a portion of the feedstocks and a portion of the resulting reaction products, consisting of, for example, more dense particles, larger particles and/or particles of a geometry, which, in the given fluidization environment, favor a bubbling bed regime, while another portion of the feedstocks and reaction products, consisting for example of less dense particles, smaller particles, and/or particles of a geometry, which, in the given fluidization environment, favor a turbulent or transport regime. Regimes of fluidization may result from the fact that fluidized solid beds behave differently as gas properties, velocity, and solid properties are varied. For example, when a solid bed (having a defined set of solid properties) is exposed to an upward flowing fluid, such as a gas (having a defined set of fluid properties), a pressure drop develops across the bed. As the upward flow rate of the fluid increases, there are a range of fluidization regimes that may develop.

[0055] One example of a distinct fluidization regime is the bubbling bed regime. A bubbling bed regime is one where the solid material is fluidized above the material's incipient fluidization point but below the point where the material becomes entrained in the gas and capable of leaving the reactor with the gas flow. Another example of a distinct fluidization regime is a turbulent, or transport regime. The turbulent or transport regime is one where the solid material is fluidized to the point where the material becomes entrained in the gas and is transported out of the reactor with the gas. Other examples of distinct fluidization regimes seen in fluidized bed reactors may include homogeneous, dense suspension upflow, slugging, spouted bed, turbulent, fast fluidizing, and pneumatic transport.

[0056] In addition to fluidizing the solids, this system provides a desirable environment to allow for the hydrating reaction to occur, whereby incoming calcium oxide mixes with water, in the form of liquid and/or steam, to produce calcium hydroxide. The sensible heat from some of the hot solid feed material, as well as the heat generated from the hydrating reaction itself are used to dry and preheat the other cooler, moist solid materials. Both the hydrating reaction and the heat transfer processes take place in a fluidized bed reactor vessel wherein solid calcium carbonate, solid calcium oxide, steam and liquid water come into contact.

[0057] This system includes multiple components, for example dryer, hydrators and heat exchange componentry, in a single unit. In some aspects, conventional components for hydrating processes, such as a dryer, hydrator and heat exchange equipment, are replaced by one fluidized bed reactor.

This resulting high temperature fluidized bed hydrator unit has higher thermal efficiency than the previously separated equipment, due to having the process streams in direct contact with heat sources (for example, other process streams, fluidizing gases). By using process streams in this manner, the desired multiple approach temperatures associated with separate heat exchangers are also reduced, for example, from multiple approaches to a single approach. The fluidized bed reactor unit has no moving parts, unlike conventional hydrator and dryer units, and as such, has lower maintenance than such conventional units.

[0058] Each of the configurations described later may include process streams (also called “streams”) within a system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide including a fluidized bed. The process streams can be flowed using one or more flow control systems implemented throughout the system. A flow control system can include one or more flow pumps to pump the process streams, one or more flow pipes through which the process streams are flowed and one or more valves to regulate the flow of streams through the pipes.

[0059] In some implementations, a flow control system can be operated manually. For example, an operator can set a flow rate for each pump and set valve open or close positions to regulate the flow of the process streams through the pipes in the flow control system. Once the operator has set the flow rates and the valve open or close positions for all flow control systems distributed across the system for converting calcium oxide to calcium hydroxide, the flow control system can flow the streams under constant flow conditions, for example, constant volumetric rate or other flow conditions. To change the flow conditions, the operator can manually operate the flow control system, for example, by changing the pump flow rate or the valve open or close position.

[0060] In some implementations, a flow control system can be operated automatically. For example, the flow control system can be connected to a computer or control system (e.g., control system **999**) to operate the flow control system. The control system can include a computer-readable medium storing instructions (such as flow control instructions and other instructions) executable by one or more processors to perform operations (such as flow control operations). An operator can set the flow rates and the valve open or close positions for all flow control systems distributed across the facility using the control system. In such implementations, the operator can manually change the flow conditions by providing inputs through the control system. Also, in such implementations, the control system can automatically (that is, without manual intervention) control one or more of the flow control systems, for example, using feedback systems connected to the control system. For example, a sensor (such as a pressure sensor, temperature sensor or other sensor) can be connected to a pipe through which a process stream flows. The sensor can monitor and provide a flow condition (such as a pressure, temperature, or other flow condition) of the process stream to the control system. In response to the flow condition exceeding a threshold (such as a threshold pressure value, a threshold temperature value, or other threshold value), the control system can automatically perform operations. For example, if the pressure or temperature in the pipe exceeds the threshold pressure value or the threshold temperature value, respectively, the control system can provide a signal to the pump to decrease a flow rate, a signal to open a valve to relieve the pressure, a signal to shut down process stream flow, or other signals.

[0061] Referring to FIG. 1, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **100**. In some implementations, system **100** may include feed ports for streams **101**, **102** and **105** fluidly coupled to the main system **100**, and a discharge port for stream **104** fluidly coupled to the main system **100**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **106** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **100**. In some aspects system **100** may include a cyclone **111** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **109** and discharge ports for streams **112**, **110**. In some aspects system **100** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0062] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 1, gaseous stream **102** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to

the hydrator system **100** through the bottom entry zone **113**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **106**. Gaseous stream **102** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **101** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **106** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **100** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **107**, unless discharged as stream **104**. Stream **101** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **105** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **106**. Stream **105** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **106** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **113**. Solid material **105**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **107** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **108**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **109**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **108**, the stream **109** is sent to a cyclone **111**, to separate the solids **112**, from the gases **110**. The fluidization gas **102**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone **113**, of the fluidized bed reactor **100**. This fluidizing gas **102**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **110** leaving the cyclone **111**.

[0063] The hydrating reaction, where calcium oxide is converted to calcium hydroxide, takes place within the fluidized bed reactor system **100**: [0064]  $\text{CaO(s)} + \text{H}_2\text{O(l)} \rightarrow \text{Ca(OH)}_2\text{(s)}$  hydrating reaction using liquid water. [0065]  $\text{CaO(s)} + \text{H}_2\text{O(g)} \rightarrow \text{Ca(OH)}_2\text{(s)}$  hydrating reaction using steam.

[0066] In some cases the water required for the hydrating reaction can be supplied into system **100** through excess steam brought in with stream **102**, or it could also be brought into the system **100** as part of the solids material requiring heating/drying, via stream **101** or **105**. In some cases, the stream requiring heat transfer (and that may contain liquid water) could be either stream **101** or **105**, depending on the application. For example, in a Kraft caustic recovery system, the calcium carbonate material may be introduced as smaller particles, which may be more comparable to lime mud in particle size, while the calcium oxide material may be introduced as larger particles or clumps, and could have sizes closer to approximately one (1) centimeter in diameter.

[0067] In some implementations, a portion of the material normally fluidized within the turbulent/transport regime may leave with the material in the bubbling bed regime. In these implementations, it can be separated based on the difference in physical properties and re-introduced into the reactor system **100** or combined with the finished circulating solids stream **112**.

[0068] In some implementations, the system **100** could be heat insulated with, for example insulation material. In these cases, care would need to be taken in selecting both the insulation material for heat economy, as well as the vessel material of construction. In some aspects, metal compositions that are capable of maintaining structural integrity under operating pressures and temperatures of around 300° C. would be selected, for example stainless steel or other metal compositions.

[0069] In another implementation, system **100** could instead be insulated with refractory lining, allowing for more economical options for vessel material of construction, for example carbon steel.

[0070] Referring to FIG. 2, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **200**. In some implementations, system **200** may include feed ports for streams **201**, **202**, **205** and **214** fluidly coupled to the main system **200**, and a discharge port for stream **204** fluidly coupled to the main system **200**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **206** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **200**. In some aspects system **200** may include a cyclone **211** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **209** and discharge ports for streams **212**, **210**. In some aspects system **200** may include a control system **999**



coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0071] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 2, gaseous stream **202** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **200** through the bottom entry zone **213**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **206**. Gaseous stream **202** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **201** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **206** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **200** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **207**, unless discharged as stream **204**. Stream **201** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **205** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **206**. Stream **205** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **206** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **213**. Solid material **205**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **207** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **208**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **209**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **208**, the stream **209** is sent to a cyclone **211**, to separate the solids **212**, from the gases **210**. The fluidization gas **202**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone, **213**, of the fluidized bed reactor, **200**. This fluidizing gas **202**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **210** leaving the cyclone **211**. A portion of the water required for the hydrating reaction can be supplied into system **200** through a variety of feed methods including excess steam brought in with stream **202**, as a direct, separate spray of liquid water, **214**, which could be fed into either the bubbling bed **207** or freeboard zone **208**, or a combination of these methods.

[0072] Referring to FIG. 3A, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **300**. In some implementations, system **300** may include feed ports for streams **301**, **302**, and **305** fluidly coupled to the main system **300**, and a discharge port for stream **304** fluidly coupled to the main system **300**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **306** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **300**. In some aspects system **300** may include a cyclone **311** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **309** and discharge ports for streams **312**, **310**. In some aspects the cyclone discharge port for stream **312** is fluidly coupled back to the main body of system **300**, and may include a non-mechanical valve and feed port on the main body for recirculation of stream **315** back into the main body and a discharge port for stream **316**. In some aspects system **300** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0073] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 3A, gaseous stream **302** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **300** through the bottom entry zone **313**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **306**. Gaseous stream **302** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **301** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **306** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **300** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **307**, unless discharged as stream **304**. Stream **301** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **305** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **306**. Stream **305** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **306** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **313**. Solid material **305**, any associated

reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **307** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **308**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **309**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **308**, the stream **309** is sent to a cyclone **311**, to separate the solids **312**, from the gases **310**. The fluidization gas **302**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone, **313**, of the fluidized bed reactor, **300**. This fluidizing gas **302**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **310** leaving the cyclone **311**. A portion of the solid stream **312** leaving the cyclone **311** is recycled back into system **300** as stream **315**. If additional residence time is required for the solids being discharged from the cyclone **311**, these solids can be fully or partially re-introduced back into the fluidization vessel of system **300**, via stream **315**, for example, in a similar fashion to that of a circulating fluidized bed reactor. In some aspects, stream **315** can be re-introduced into the fluidization vessel of system **300** by means of a non-mechanical valve. Some examples of non-mechanical valves are L-valves, J-valves, V-valves, loop seals, seal pots, reverse seals and the like. Stream **316** can be used to withdraw a portion of the circulating solid material from system **300**. [0074] Referring to FIG. 3B, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **300**. In some implementations, system **300** may include feed ports for streams **301**, **302**, and **305** fluidly coupled to the main system **300**, and a discharge port for stream **304** fluidly coupled to the main system **300**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **306** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **300**. In some aspects system **300** may include a cyclone **311** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **309** and discharge ports for streams **312**, **310**. In some aspects the cyclone discharge port for stream **312** is fluidly coupled back to the main body of system **300**, and may include a non-mechanical valve such as a loop seal **317** fluidly coupled to a feed port on the main body for recirculation of stream **315** back into the main body and a discharge port for stream **316**. In some aspects system **300** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise). In some aspects the loop seal **317** is fluidly coupled to a distribution plate **319** and feed port for stream **318**. [0075] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 3A, gaseous stream **302** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **300** through the bottom entry zone **313**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **306**. Gaseous stream **302** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **301** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **306** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **300** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **307**, unless discharged as stream **304**. Stream **301** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **305** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **306**. Stream **305** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **306** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **313**. Solid material **305**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **307** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **308**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **309**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **308**, the stream **309** is sent to a cyclone **311**, to separate the solids **312**, from the gases **310**. The fluidization gas **302**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone, **313**, of the fluidized bed reactor **300**. This fluidizing gas **302**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **310** leaving the cyclone **311**.

[0076] A portion of the solid stream **312** leaving the cyclone **311** is recycled back into system **300** as stream **315**. If additional residence time is required for the solids being discharged from the cyclone **311**, these solids can be fully or partially re-introduced back into the fluidization vessel of

system **300**, via stream **315**, for example, in a similar fashion to that of a circulating fluidized bed reactor. In some aspects, stream **315** can be re-introduced into the fluidization vessel of system **300** by means of a non-mechanical valve.

[0077] Some examples of non-mechanical valves are L-valves, J-valves, V-valves, loop seals, seal pots, reverse seals and the like. Stream **316** can be used to withdraw a portion of the circulating solid material from system **300**. All components in the system **300** are substantially the same as in the embodiment of the system **300** illustrated in FIG. 3A, with the exception being that more detail is shown on how the system **300** could be built to accommodate the recirculation of solid stream **312**. In this implementation, solid stream **312** is shown moving down a vertical length of pipe that connects the cyclone **311** back to the main vessel body of system **300**. In some example aspects, this pipe may include a non-mechanical valve, such as a loop seal **317** complete with a gas stream **318** being fed through a distribution plate **319**. In some aspects the distribution plate **319** may instead be nozzles. In some aspects the gas stream **318** may for example include air, steam or the like. Stream **318** provides sufficient backpressure through the loop seal **317** so that fluidizing gases from the main vessel system **300** do not divert backwards through the loop seal **317**.

[0078] Referring to FIG. 4A, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **400**. In some implementations, system **400** may include feed ports for streams **401**, **402**, and **405** fluidly coupled to the main system **400**, and a discharge port for stream **404** fluidly coupled to the main system **400**. In some aspects the discharge port **404** is fluidly coupled to a solids classifier unit, for example an external sieve unit **420**. The external sieve unit **420** is fluidly coupled to discharge ports for streams **422** and **421**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **406** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **400**. In some aspects system **400** may include a cyclone **411** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **409** and discharge ports for streams **412**, **410**. In some aspects system **400** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0079] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 4A, gaseous stream **402** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **400** through the bottom entry zone **413**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **406**. Gaseous stream **402** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **401** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **406** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **400** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **407**, unless discharged as stream **404**. Stream **401** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **405** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **406**. Stream **405** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **406** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **413**. Solid material **405**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **407** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **408**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **409**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **408**, the stream **409** is sent to a cyclone **411**, to separate the solids **412**, from the gases **410**. The fluidization gas **402**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone **413**, of the fluidized bed reactor **400**. This fluidizing gas **402**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **410** leaving the cyclone **411**. An external sieve unit **420** is used to segregate material withdrawn from the bubbling bed zone **407** based on physical properties, for example particle size. A portion of the material normally fluidized within the turbulent/transport regime may leave with the material in the bubbling bed regime in stream **404**.

[0080] In this implementation, the turbulent or transport regime material can be separated from the

bubbling regime material based on the difference in physical properties, using sieve unit **420** such that the smaller material drops through the sieve **420** and leaves as stream **421**, and the larger material remains above the sieve holes and leaves as stream **422**. Stream **421** can be re-introduced into the reactor system **400** for further reaction, or combined with the finished circulating solids stream **412** and sent to downstream processing, for example to cooling and/or lime slurry systems that can be used in carbon dioxide capture facilities such as industrial (point source) facilities and facilities that capture more dilute carbon dioxide sources such as direct air capture facilities, as well as waste water treatment facilities or Kraft caustic recover processes. Stream **422** could also be sent to downstream processing, for example to heat exchangers and fluid bed calciner systems sometimes used in direct air capture facilities.

[0081] In some aspects, stream **421** may include for example calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide particles, and stream **422** may include for example calcium carbonate pellets.

[0082] Referring to FIG. **4B**, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **400**. In some implementations, system **400** may include feed ports for streams **401**, **402**, and **405** fluidly coupled to the main system **400**, and a discharge port for stream **404** fluidly coupled to the main system **400**. In some aspects the discharge port **404** is fluidly coupled to an internal solids classifier unit **430**, which is internal to system **100**. In some aspects, the internal solids classifier unit **430** can be a cone and cap sloped stripper. In some aspects the internal solids classifier unit **430** is fluidly coupled to a feed port for stream **431** and a discharge port for stream **404**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **406** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **400**. In some aspects system **400** may include a cyclone **411** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **409** and discharge ports for streams **412**, **410**. In some aspects system **400** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0083] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. **4B**, gaseous stream **402** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **400** through the bottom entry zone **413**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **406**. Gaseous stream **402** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **401** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **406** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **400** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **407**, unless discharged as stream **404**. Stream **401** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **405** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **406**. Stream **405** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **406** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **413**. Solid material **405**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **407** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **408**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **409**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **408**, the stream **409** is sent to a cyclone **411**, to separate the solids **412**, from the gases **410**. The fluidization gas **402**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone **413**, of the fluidized bed reactor, **400**. This fluidizing gas **402**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **410** leaving the cyclone **411**. Componentry internal to system **400** is used to segregate material withdrawn from the bubbling bed zone **407** based on physical properties, for example particle size and/or density.

[0084] In this implementation, material is segregated based on physical properties such as size, and/or mass, through use of a baffled channel or annulus solids classifier component **430**. Material from the bubbling bed zone **407** enters this component **430**, and the baffles and upward flowing

gases from stream **431** prevent smaller or lighter particles from making it to the bottom discharge section and instead act to push the smaller and/or lighter material back into the main vessel body of system **400**. The larger or heavier material moves down through component **430** to the bottom discharge portion where it can then be discharged as stream **404**. In some aspects, stream **431** includes gases such as air or steam and the like. In some aspects, component **430** may for example be a cone and cap sloped stripper. In other aspects, component **430** could be similar to the mechanisms of discharging spent catalyst material from gas-solid fluidized beds, such as those found in fluidized beds used for catalytic cracking of hydrocarbons. In catalytic cracking fluidized beds, the spent catalyst solids are discharged, for example, from a fluidized bubbling (non-circulating) bed via a baffled annulus such that larger catalyst moves downward and out into a discharge channel, and finer material and gases move upward back into fluidization vessel.

[0085] Referring to FIG. 5A, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **500**. In some implementations, system **500** may include feed ports for streams **501**, **502**, and **505** and fluidly coupled to the main system **500**, and a discharge port for stream **504** fluidly coupled to the main system **500**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **506** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **500**. In some aspects system **500** may include a cyclone **511** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **509** and discharge ports for streams **512**, **510**. In some aspects system **500** may include heat tubing componentry **544** fluidly coupled to system **500**, including a feed port for stream **549** and a discharge port for stream **550** fluidly coupled to the heat tubing componentry **544**. In some aspects system **500** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise). [0086] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 5A, gaseous stream **502** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **500** through the bottom entry zone **513**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **506**. Gaseous stream **502** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **501** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **506** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **500** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **507**, unless discharged as stream **504**. Stream **501** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **505** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **506**. Stream **505** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **506** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **513**. Solid material **505**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **507** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **508**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **509**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **508**, the stream **509** is sent to a cyclone **511**, to separate the solids **512**, from the gases **510**. The fluidization gas **502**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone **513**, of the fluidized bed reactor **500**. This fluidizing gas **502**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **510** leaving the cyclone **511**. heating tube componentry **544**, has been added to the vessel walls of system **500** in the bubbling bed zone **507**.

[0087] In this implementation, any portions of either the sensible heat or heat from the hydrating reaction, which is not consumed to heat the pellets and supply the enthalpy to bring the pellets to the operating temperature of the fluid bed, is used instead to make saturated steam for subsequent superheat and power generation. In this implementation, The high temperature hydrator system **500** is built with heat tubing componentry **544** which lines the inner wall of the unit, within the bubbling bed zone **507**. During operation of system **500**, a stream **549** which could be for example, boiler feed water another appropriate heat exchange fluid, or another process fluid stream, is fed

into the tube componentry **544**, where the heat from the fluidized bed zone **507** moves through the tubes and into the contents of stream **549** as they move through the tubes. In some aspects, stream **549** is boiler feed water and this indirect heating converts the boiler feed water into saturated steam that leaves the tube componentry as stream **550**. In some aspects, the saturated steam from these tubes is sent as stream **550** to downstream heat consumers or power producers, for example other process heat exchangers or a steam superheater unit and/or steam turbine.

[0088] Referring to FIG. 5B, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **500**. In some implementations, system **500** may include feed ports for streams **501**, **502**, and **505** and fluidly coupled to the main system **500**, and a discharge port for stream **504** fluidly coupled to the main system **500**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **506** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **500**. In some aspects system **500** may include a cyclone **511** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **509** and discharge ports for streams **512**, **510**. In some aspects system **500** may include heat tubing componentry **554** fluidly coupled to system **500**, including a feed port for stream **555** and a discharge port for stream **556** fluidly coupled to the heat tubing componentry **554**. In some aspects system **500** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0089] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 5B, gaseous stream **502** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **500** through the bottom entry zone **513**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **506**. Gaseous stream **502** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **501** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **506** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **500** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **507**, unless discharged as stream **504**. Stream **501** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **505** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **506**. Stream **505** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **506** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **513**. Solid material **505**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **507** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **508**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **509**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **508**, the stream **509** is sent to a cyclone **511**, to separate the solids **512**, from the gases **510**. The fluidization gas **502**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone **513**, of the fluidized bed reactor **500**. This fluidizing gas **502**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **510** leaving the cyclone **511**. The heat tube componentry **554** is positioned away from the vessel wall of system **500**, and instead is protruding across a substantial portion of the cross section of the bubbling bed zone **507**. In this implementation, any portions of either the sensible heat or heat from the hydrating reaction, which is not consumed to heat the pellets and supply the enthalpy to bring the pellets to the operating temperature of the fluid bed, is used instead to make saturated steam for subsequent superheat and power generation. In this implementation, The high temperature hydrator system **500** is built with heat tubing componentry **554** which protrudes across a substantial portion of the cross section of the bubbling bed zone **507**. During operation of system **500**, a stream **555** which could be for example, boiler feed water another appropriate heat exchange fluid, or another process fluid stream, is fed into the tube componentry **554**, where the heat from the fluidized bed zone **507** moves through the tubes and into the contents of stream **555** as they move through the tubes. In some aspects, stream **555** is boiler feed water and this indirect heating converts the boiler feed water into saturated steam that leaves the tube componentry as stream **556**. In some aspects, the saturated steam from these tubes is sent as stream **556** to downstream heat consumers or power

producers, for example other process heat exchangers or a steam superheater unit and/or steam turbine.

[0090] Referring to FIG. 6, calcium oxide conversion to calcium hydroxide in the presence of a fluid bed is described with respect to illustrative system **600**. In some implementations, system **600** may include feed ports for streams **601**, **602**, and **605** and fluidly coupled to the main system **600**, and a discharge port for stream **604** fluidly coupled to the main system **600**. In some aspects a gas distribution plate **606** may be fluidly coupled to the main vessel body of system **600**. In some aspects system **600** may include a cyclone **611** fluidly coupled to feed ports for stream **609** and discharge ports for streams **612**, **610**. In some aspects system **600** may be fluidly coupled to an external fluidized bed system **660**, including discharge ports fluidly coupled to the external fluidized bed system **660** for streams **621**, **665** and feed ports for stream **620** and **663**. In some aspects system **600** may be fluidly coupled to a feed port for stream **665**. In some aspects, the external fluidized bed system **660** may be fluidly coupled to heat tubing componentry **668** and system **660** and heat tubing componentry **668** may also be fluidly coupled to a feed port for stream **661** and a discharge port for stream **664**. In some aspects system **600** may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0091] In some implementations, fluidization gases include, for example, air, steam, and the like. As depicted in FIG. 6, gaseous stream **602** including one or more fluidization gases is provided to the hydrator system **600** through the bottom entry zone **613**, also known as the plenum chamber, which is below the fluidization distribution plate **606**. Gaseous stream **602** may be, for example, air, steam or a combination of these gases and their sub-components. Stream **601** is one of the solid feedstocks, which enters the system above the fluidization distribution plate **606** and becomes fluidized in the bed or bubbling bed regimes within the fluidized bed system **600** and as such it remains in the bubbling bed zone **607**, unless discharged as stream **604**. Stream **201** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium carbonate or calcium oxide, and may also consist in part of aqueous solutions such as liquid water. Stream **605** is the solid feedstock which becomes fluidized in the turbulent or transport fluidization regime and it also enters the system above the distribution plate **606**. Stream **605** may, for example, consist mostly of calcium oxide or calcium carbonate and may also consist in part of liquid or gaseous water. The distribution plate **606** is designed to prevent backflow of any solids into the fluidization gas entry zone **613**. Solid material **605**, any associated reaction products and any steam generated from liquid water content present in the system are carried out of the bubbling bed **607** and transported through the reactor freeboard zone **608**. The resulting mixed stream of fluidization gases and solids is mixed-stream **609**, and after leaving the reactor freeboard zone **608**, the stream **609** is sent to a cyclone **611**, to separate the solids **612**, from the gases **610**. The fluidization gas **602**, is blown into the fluidization gas entry zone **613**, of the fluidized bed reactor **600**. This fluidizing gas **602**, could be partially recycled from the gas stream **610** leaving the cyclone **611**. An indirectly heated external fluidized bed system **660** is connected to system **600** such that material from the bubbling bed **607** can be discharged to the external fluidized bed system **660** and after being processed in **660**, the material can be sent back to system **600**. The separate fluidized bed vessel **660** may include componentry such as heat tubing **668**, heat exchange medium entering the heat tubing **668** as stream **661** and leaving as stream **664**, a densely fluidized bed **667**, and a fluidization gas stream **663**.

[0092] In some implementations, system **660** is operated under significantly higher density bed conditions so that heat tubing **668** can be densely packed within the vessel **660** and come in close contact with the fluidized pellet bed **667**.

[0093] In some implementations, the pellets from the bubbling bed zone **607** of the main high temperature hydrator vessel **600** may be moved back and forth between vessel **660** and vessel **600** in order to exchange heat from vessel **600** to vessel **660** and its componentry, for example the heat tubing system **668**.

[0094] In some implementations, steam generation may be split between the high temperature

hydrator system **600** and the external dense fluidized bed vessel **660**. In this implementation, a portion of the discharged stream **604** would feed into system **660** as stream **620**. Both boiler feed water heating and steam generation could occur within the tubing **668**, and the resultant cooled pellet material is transferred back to system **600** via stream **665**. In some aspects, the heat exchange occurring within system **660** is such that stream **665** is cooled to below 300° C. and is recycled to the bubbling bed zone **607**. In some aspects, sending the cooler stream **665** back to system **600** allows for control of temperature within system **600**.

[0095] In some aspects, there is another portion of stream **604** that does not feed into system **660**, but instead leaves as stream **621**. This stream **621** could be sent to downstream processing, for example to a fluidized calciner unit as part of a direct air capture system.

[0096] In some implementations, system **600** might be configured such that it produces a low bed-side heat transfer film coefficient. This, combined with heat transfer surface mechanical limitations, for example, a low heat tube surface area to bed surface area ratio, might not allow for full heat extraction from the bubbling bed zone **607** in system **600**.

[0097] In some aspects heat coils are used inside system **600**, where the heat coils are as illustrated in FIGS. 5A and 5B. In some of these cases, the fluid in the streams feeding the heat coils is boiler feed water and the temperature of the boiler feed water, may not provide enough of a differential temperature drive to overcome the above mentioned mechanical surface area limitations (that result in a low approach temperature requirement). In these cases, the use of an external densely fluidized bed system such as **660** as illustrated in FIG. 6, would utilize a lower fluidization velocity (resulting in a denser bubbling bed, for example) in comparison to the bubbling bed in system **600**, and as such should have both a higher surface area ratio and bed-side coefficient to overcome the low boiler feed water approach temperature requirements.

[0098] FIG. 7 illustrates how a high temperature hydrator may, for example, be connected to other processes such as a direct air capture process. In some implementations, the direct air capture (DAC) process is configured to capture dilute concentrations of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and produce a concentrated liquid or gaseous stream of carbon dioxide which can be utilized in applications such as Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), as feedstock for the production of synthetic hydrocarbons. In some cases, the concentrated liquid or gaseous carbon dioxide can instead be sequestered in a subsurface saline aquifer, reservoirs or aging oil fields as part of the previously mentioned EOR process. In some cases, the concentrated liquid or gaseous stream of carbon dioxide may instead be combined with other chemical feedstock, for example hydrogen, and further processed into a synthetic hydrocarbon such as diesel, gasoline and waxes.

[0099] In some implementations, the DAC process operates as a continuous, closed-loop system that inputs water, energy and small material make-up streams, and delivers highly concentrated, pressurized carbon dioxide.

[0100] Some examples of major process equipment involved in an implementation of this type of direct air capture commercial process include air contactors, fluidized bed reactive crystallizers also known as pellet reactors, oxy-fired circulating fluidized bed calciners, and some types of lime slakers or hydrators. Auxiliary equipment also involved in this type of direct air capture process may include, for example, compressors, turbines, boilers, heat exchangers, steam systems and oxygen production units such as Air Separation Units (ASU) or a variety of water electrolyzer units.

[0101] In some implementations, the DAC process draws air through an air contactor, where it contacts a strong aqueous hydroxide solution, such as potassium hydroxide (KOH). The carbon dioxide in the air reacts with the potassium hydroxide to form a solution of potassium carbonate (K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) and water, absorbing about three-quarters of the available carbon dioxide.

[0102] In some implementations, the DAC process potassium carbonate solution is transferred to a fluidize bed reactive crystallizer or pellet reactor. In some aspects the fluidized bed reactive crystallizer or pellet reactor is a liquid-solid fluidized bed, where the potassium carbonate solution



can contact calcium hydroxide ( $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ), also known as hydrated lime, and precipitate calcium carbonate pellets through a process known as causticization.

[0103] In some implementations, the DAC process calcium carbonate pellets from the fluidized bed reactive crystallizer pass through a slaker to absorb heat before being fed into a circulating fluidized bed calciner, which is essentially a type of high-temperature kiln or furnace. The heat releases the carbon dioxide as a highly concentrated, gaseous stream, leaving calcium oxide ( $\text{CaO}$ ) as by-product, through a process known as calcination. In some aspects, heat for the calciner is provided by combusting natural gas with oxygen (known as “oxy-firing”), so that the combustion exhaust may contain mostly carbon dioxide with some water, and can be combined with the carbon dioxide stream leaving the calciner. In some aspects the oxygen used for oxy-firing is separated from air using an air separator.

[0104] In some implementations of the DAC process, the calcium oxide is fed into the slaker, where it may combine with steam to regenerate hydrated lime, which can then be fed into the fluidized bed reactive crystallizer or pellet reactor for reuse. In some aspects, the slaker may be configured as a high temperature hydrator.

[0105] In some implementations, at least a portion of the electrical power for the DAC process derives from on-site generation. In some aspects, the on-site power generation uses natural gas as fuel, or from external, grid-supplied renewable electricity sources. In some aspects, some of the DAC process electrical power is generated on-site using waste or excess steam, for example from the calciner or high temperature hydrator.

[0106] FIG. 7 does not show all the major equipment involved in a direct air capture process, rather, it illustrates one embodiment of how the key interfaces, for example heat and material stream exchanges, could be set up between a high temperature hydrator system and the immediate upstream and downstream process and heat exchange equipment of a direct air capture process. In the implementation illustrated in FIG. 7, calcium carbonate pellets, which may have been processed upstream to remove process solution, are fed, slightly wet, via stream **700** to the high temperature hydrator unit **740**. In some aspects the direct air capture process may include a control system **999** coupled to the components (illustrated or otherwise).

[0107] The wet calcium carbonate pellets in stream **700**, and hot calcium oxide (quicklime) in stream **710** that originated from the calciner system **800**, are both fed into the high temperature hydrator unit **740** and mixed. The high temperature hydrator **740** is fluidized by recirculating steam, as stream **705**. In some aspects, a portion of the steam stream **705** takes part in the slaking reaction that converts the feed stream of calcium oxide material in stream **710** into calcium hydroxide material.

[0108] The calcium carbonate pellets in stream **700** that are fed into the high temperature hydrator unit **740** do not participate in the slaking reaction; instead, they are dried and heated using the process heat within the high temperature hydrator unit **740**. The calcium oxide in stream **710** is delivered at a temperature of approximately  $694^\circ\text{C}$ . The calcium oxide stream **710** may include, for example, approximately 94.5% reactive calcium oxide, 3.4% unreactive calcium oxide, and 2.1% impurities.

[0109] A stream of mostly preheated and dried pellets are drawn out of the bubbling bed zone of the high temperature hydrator unit **740** and sent as stream **708** to the solid sieve unit **760** to separate the solids into a stream of larger pellets, stream **719**, and any smaller particles, such as calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide, as stream **709**. The larger solids in stream **719** can be fed to the calciner preheat cyclone system **790** at an approximate temperature of  $300^\circ\text{C}$ .

[0110] The calcium hydroxide solid particles can be separated from the calcium carbonate pellets due to a substantial size difference between the small, micron sized calcium hydroxide particles and the larger, millimeter sized calcium carbonate pellets. The calcium hydroxide will therefore pass through the solid sieve unit **760**, which may for example have a mesh with 0.8 mm diameter holes, while the pellets, being larger, will not pass through the holes in the mesh and will instead

move along the top of the mesh and out a separate exit. Any unreacted calcium oxide present in the feed stream to the solid sieve unit **760** will, depending on size, either recycle back to the calciner unit **800** with stream **719** or continue onto the cooler unit **750** in stream **711**, where it has another opportunity to react with water, in a hydration reaction, to form calcium hydroxide.

[0111] After passing through the high temperature hydrator unit **740**, the steam stream **701** may be further cleaned of solids using for example a cyclone unit **765** and a baghouse unit **770**, then recirculated back to the inlet gas distributor, or “windbox,” of the high temperature hydrator unit **740** using a high temperature blower **820**.

[0112] Any solid material that passes the primary cyclone of the high temperature hydrator unit **740** will be fine particles that may be captured further downstream by a cyclone unit **765**, leaving this unit as stream **706** or even further downstream in a baghouse unit **770**, leaving this unit as stream **707**.

[0113] In some implementations, a portion of the calcium carbonate pellets may be small enough to transport along with the circulating material and as such, wind up in any one or a combination of streams **706**, **707**, and **709**. Depending on the amount of calcium carbonate pellet material present in these streams, this may introduce a form of dead load propagating forward into downstream processes within the system. This dead load can be mitigated by including, for example, one or more hot sieve screens to process at least a portion of one or both of streams **706** and **707** to capture the calcium carbonate material and direct it over to the calciner system **800**.

[0114] In some implementations, all three streams **706**, **707**, and **709**, could be combined into stream **711** and sent to a cooler unit **750**, where they are cooled using water from streams **715** and **718**. In some aspects, cooling unit **750** is built with a cooled screw, where stream **718** is boiler feed water from a steam condenser unit **745** that flows through an internal cavity in the screw, allowing for indirect cooling of the contents of the cooling unit **750**. This screw may mix stream **711** with a water stream **715**. In some aspects, stream **711** may include for example unreacted calcium oxide, which as a result of mixing in cooling unit **750** with stream **715**, could react via the hydrating reaction to produce calcium hydroxide. In some aspects, unit **750** also allows some heat from stream **711** and some heat resulting from any hydrating reaction to transfer indirectly to the boiler feed water stream **718**, providing a further preheated stream **712** of boiler feed water that can then be sent to the high temperature hydrator unit **740** for conversion into saturated steam stream **703**.

[0115] In some implementations, the cooler unit **750** carries out two functions: a) it cools exiting stream **716** to below 100° C. so that it can be safely mixed with water in mixing tank **755** to form the required Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> slurry and b) it provides for a small amount of water (stream **715**) to be sprayed onto the solid Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> to complete the remaining slaking reaction.

[0116] In some implementations, after leaving the cooler unit **750**, the Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> stream **716** is sent to the mixing tank **755**, where it is formed into a slurry mix using a water source (stream **714**). This slurry mix could be, for example, diluted with water to a slurry having a consistency of between 20 wt % to 40 wt % solids. In some aspects, the water source may be for example potable, non-potable, process water knocked out from on-site compressor units, recovered from washing systems or other process units.

[0117] In some implementations, the cooled Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> that is now retained within unit **755** can be sent further downstream to other processes that require the use of hydrated lime in either solid Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> form or a wetter slurry form. Examples of some types of downstream processes that may be fed from stream **717** include the pellet reactor units found within some types of carbon dioxide capture processes such as direct air capture, water treatment facilities, and caustic recovery units within the Kraft pulp and paper process.

[0118] In some implementations, the heat generated in the high temperature hydrator **740** may not be fully consumed in the process of drying and preheating the pellets. The excess heat could be used to generate steam, which could then be use for example for other process heat requirements or for power production via stream **703**, which in the implementation shown in FIG. 7, feeds into a

steam superheater unit **785**. In other aspects, the excess heat from the high temperature hydrator **740** could be removed from unit **740** by means of direct exchange with internal fluids within unit **740** that then leave the unit and are fed through downstream heat exchangers (not shown). In other aspects, the excess heat from the high temperature hydrator unit **740** could be removed by means of indirect exchange with heating tubes or coils located either within the vessel walls of **740** as shown in FIG. 7, or for example by heat tubes or coils located further into the bubbling bed zone of unit **740** as illustrated in FIG. 5B, or via a separate external fluidizing vessel as illustrated in FIG. 6.

[0119] In some aspects, the oxy-fired calciner **800** is a circulating fluidized bed, which is fluidized with a flow of pure oxygen shown in the process flow diagram of FIG. 7 as stream **723**.

[0120] The calciner **800** is used to decompose the calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) pellets from stream **719** into calcium oxide ( $\text{CaO}$ ) and carbon dioxide at a temperature of approximately  $900^\circ\text{C}$ . High temperature is required to drive the endothermic calcination reaction to the desired 98% conversion of calcium carbonate to calcium oxide.

[0121] The hot pellets from the high temperature hydrator **740** are sent to the calcination system via stream **719** by way of two consecutive cyclone preheat stages (**790** followed by **795**) to raise the temperature of the pellets further before entering the calciner unit **800** via stream **721**.

[0122] Hot gas from the calciner unit **800** output stream **725** (primarily carbon dioxide), is fed to preheating cyclone stage **795** at approximately  $900^\circ\text{C}$ ., and then via stream **726** to preheat cyclone stage **790** at approximately  $650^\circ\text{C}$ . The gas stream **727** is then extracted from the calciner unit **800** and may be sent through coolers such as unit **785** before being sent to clean-up units such as **775** and compression unit **815**.

[0123] The gas leaving the calciner **800** in stream **727** contains all the carbon dioxide from the calcination of the pellets. In some implementations where for example natural gas combustion is used as the heat to drive the endothermic calcination reaction, stream **727** would also contain the carbon dioxide from the combustion of natural gas. In some aspects, the composition of this gas stream **727** is 82.8 wt %  $\text{CO}_2$ , 14.6 wt %  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 1.13 wt %  $\text{O}_2$ , and 1.43 wt %  $\text{N}_2$ .

[0124] In some aspects, a small amount of the calciner **800** off-gas (primarily carbon dioxide) is re-circulated back into the system through stream **734** after passing the last cooling unit **785**, but before the water vapor has been removed. This stream can be used as a supply for various minor fluid bed requirements such as instrument purges, and to aid the circulation of the solids from the primary cyclone **795** back into the main calciner bed. This can be done with air but recycled carbon dioxide is used in this implementation instead to prevent dilution of the calciner off-gases with nitrogen.

[0125] The stream **739** of remaining hot solid reaction product leaving calciner unit **800**—which includes for example mostly quicklime or calcium oxide ( $\text{CaO}$ )—may be used to preheat the incoming oxygen feed stream **722** via a heat exchange unit **805** before being sent to downstream cooling and/or processing units. This solid calcium oxide product from the calcination reaction is shown as stream **739** in FIG. 7. In some implementations, the very hot material in stream **739** may be close-coupled to the high temperature hydrator unit **740** to avoid an expensive transport device. This may also require, for example, a grade level high temperature hydrator pellet screen with a vertical  $300^\circ\text{C}$ . pellet pneumatic transport to carry the pellet feed (stream **719**) to the calciner pre-heat cyclone **790**. In some aspects it is desirable to minimize, for example, capital expense and operational difficulties of this configuration; in this case, a portion of the supplemental (in addition to feed pellet water) reactive steam (stream **729**), could be diverted as a slipstream and used for the pneumatic transport of stream **719** to the pre-heat cyclone **790**, before being returned to the recirculation stream **704** (not shown).

[0126] In some aspects, unit **805** could be a bubbling fluidized bed. In some aspects where unit **805** is a bubbling fluidized bed, the hot calcium oxide in stream **739** from the calciner unit **800** is fluidized by the oxygen stream **722**, which could transfer heat directly from the calcium oxide

stream **739** to the oxygen stream **722**. This could raise the temperature of the oxygen stream **722** from ambient to approximately 700° C. in stream **723**. In some aspects this bubbling fluid bed **805** may be refractory lined, suitable for service with high temperature oxygen, and completely gas-tight to prevent release of oxygen from the system.

[0127] In some aspects, the heat for the calciner unit **800** is supplied by combustion of natural gas fed from stream **724**.

[0128] The heat for the calcination endothermic reaction could be provided from a variety of sources, depending on the economics and resources associated with the location of a particular commercial plant. In an example aspect, the heat source is electric. In another example aspect, the heat source is combustion of a hydrocarbon such as natural gas. In another example aspect, the heat source is solar or solar thermal. In another example aspect, the heat source is combustion of biomass. In yet another example aspect the heat source is combustion of hydrogen.

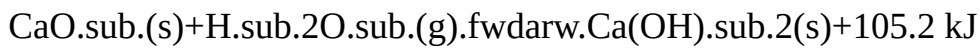
[0129] Oxygen for the calciner unit **800** is provided via stream **722**. In some aspects, the oxygen stream **722** is supplied by an air separation unit (ASU) which may for example operate at a pressure of approximately 20 kPag. In other aspects the oxygen source for stream **722** may be a by-product of water electrolysis.

[0130] In some implementations, the high temperature hydrator unit **740** may be built as a refractory lined circulating fluidized bed, or CFB. In some aspects, the fluidization velocity in the high temperature hydrator is chosen such that the calcium carbonate pellets remain as a fluidized bed in the bottom of the device while smaller calcium oxide particles recirculate through the primary cyclone and loop seal that are shown as being integral to unit **740** in FIG. 7 and which are called out in more detail in FIG. 3B. As the calcium oxide particles are transported around the high temperature hydrator **740**, they may react with the steam and slake to form  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$  and, as a result of this reaction, heat may be released. The sensible heat of the circulating calcium oxide material, fluidization gases, and the heat from the hydrating reaction contribute to heating the calcium carbonate pellets in the bubbling bed zone up to 300° C. The heated and dried pellets (**708**) are drawn out of the bubbling zone of the high temperature hydrator unit **740** and sent to downstream processes. Any fine material which passes the primary cyclone of the high temperature hydrator unit **740** may be, for example,  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$  and could be captured by the cyclone (**765**) and/or baghouse (**770**) units. These units may be used If the downstream high temperature fluidization fan (**820**) is not able to withstand the small amount of solids in the recirculating steam stream **704**. All three streams of hydrated lime (**706**, **707**, **709**) may be combined as stream **711** and sent to another unit in the process, for example a cooling unit **750** as illustrated in FIG. 7.

[0131] In one aspect, heat generated in the high temperature hydrator unit **740** shown in FIG. 7 may not be fully consumed in drying and preheating the calcium carbonate pellets; in this case, the excess or waste heat could be used to generate steam for other heat or power requirements. One example of how this could be done is illustrated in FIG. 7, where superheated steam stream **703** is produced indirectly by flowing boiler feedwater as part of stream **712** through a set of heating coils imbedded in the high temperature hydrator unit **740**. This steam leaves the high temperature hydrator **740** as stream **703**, is sent to a steam superheater unit **785** where it is further heated and then used to feed a steam turbine **780**.

[0132] In another implementation, the high temperature hydrator unit **740** as illustrated in FIG. 7 may be operated such that the fluidization velocity within this unit **740** is set as high as possible while keeping the calcium carbonate pellets in a bubbling fluidized bed mode. In an example aspect, this fluidization velocity is set to 0.75 m/s. At This velocity, the calcium oxide will be elutriated out of the bed, captured by the primary cyclone and re-introduced back into the bed via the recirculation leg. In some aspects this recirculation leg may be as shown in FIG. 4B and may include for example a loop seal. In this implementation the calcium oxide material could behave as a circulating fluid bed while the calcium carbonate pellets behave as a back mixed bubbling fluid bed. There is a recirculating flow of steam, stream **705**, which is used to fluidize the bed. Upon

leaving the high temperature hydrator unit **740**, the steam stream **701** goes through a dust collection system, which may include for example a baghouse unit **770** and/or cyclone unit **765** to remove any calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide particles from the steam stream before being sent to a high temperature fan **820** which then boosts the stream pressure for reintroduction into the fluidized bed. [0133] In some implementations, in addition to any water carried into the high temperature hydrator unit **740** along with the pellet stream **700**, some additional steam is necessary to convert 85% of the quicklime to hydrated lime via the hydrating reaction,



[0134] In some aspects of this implementation, the additional steam can be provided by pulling a low pressure steam stream **729** off of a turbine **780** (as shown in FIG. 7) and injecting this stream **729** into the fluidizing steam flow after it has passed through the high temperature baghouse unit **770**. In some other aspects, the additional water needed to complete the above hydrating reaction could be directly injected into streams **704** or **705** as liquid water (not shown).

[0135] The choice between feeding water into the recirculating steam loop and using low pressure steam from the steam turbine **780** is determined by the economic trade-off between the additional energy generated by having the extra steam flow through the steam turbine **780**, and the additional capital and operating costs of generating extra boiler feed water and processing the extra steam.

[0136] A number of embodiments of the invention have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims. Further modifications and alternative embodiments of various aspects will be apparent to those skilled in the art in view of this description. Accordingly, this description is to be construed as illustrative only. It is to be understood that the forms shown and described herein are to be taken as examples of embodiments. Elements and materials may be substituted for those illustrated and described herein, parts and processes may be reversed, and certain features may be utilized independently, all as would be apparent to one skilled in the art after having the benefit of this description. Changes may be made in the elements described herein without departing from the spirit and scope as described in the following claims.

## Claims

1. (canceled)
2. A direct air capture (DAC) system for capturing carbon dioxide (CO.sub.2) from atmospheric air, the DAC system comprising: at least one air contactor configured to absorb CO.sub.2 from the atmospheric air with an aqueous hydroxide solution and form a carbonate solution; at least one reactor in communication with the at least one air contactor, the at least one reactor configured to react the carbonate solution with a calcium hydroxide stream and form calcium carbonate solids; and a calciner system comprising a calciner configured to calcine the calcium carbonate solids and form calcium oxide and an output gas stream comprising CO.sub.2.
3. The DAC system of claim 2, comprising a slaker system in communication with the at least one reactor and with the calciner system, the slaker system configured to slake the calcium oxide and form the calcium hydroxide stream.
4. The DAC system of claim 3, wherein the slaker system comprises a high temperature hydrator unit configured to: mix the calcium carbonate solids and the calcium oxide; fluidize the calcium carbonate solids and the calcium oxide with steam, at least some of the calcium oxide reacting with the steam to form at least some of the calcium hydroxide stream; and heat the calcium carbonate solids.
5. The DAC system of claim 2, comprising: at least one cooler unit in fluid communication with the calciner system and configured to cool the output gas stream and form a cooled output gas

stream; and at least one clean-up unit in fluid communication with the at least one cooler unit, the at least one clean-up unit configured to remove at least water from the cooled output gas stream and form a highly concentrated CO.sub.2 gas stream.

**6.** The DAC system of claim 5, comprising at least one compressor configured to pressurize the highly concentrated CO.sub.2 gas stream.

**7.** The DAC system of claim 5, wherein the calcination system comprises a recirculation line in fluid communication with the at least one cooler unit and configured to recirculate some of the cooled output gas stream to the calciner.

**8.** The DAC system of claim 2, wherein the at least one air contactor is configured to absorb CO.sub.2 from the atmospheric air with a potassium hydroxide solution and form a potassium carbonate solution.

**9.** The DAC system of claim 2, wherein the at least one reactor comprises a pellet reactor configured to form calcium carbonate pellets.

**10.** The DAC system of claim 2, wherein the calciner is configured to combust natural gas with oxygen.

**11.** The DAC system of claim 10, comprising at least one air separation unit in communication with the calciner system and configured to produce at least some of the oxygen.

**12.** The DAC system of claim 2, wherein the calciner comprises an oxy-fired circulating fluidized bed calciners.

**13.** A method of capturing carbon dioxide (CO.sub.2) from atmospheric air, the method comprising: flowing the atmospheric air through at least one air contactor configured to absorb CO.sub.2 from the atmospheric air with an aqueous hydroxide solution and form a carbonate solution; reacting the carbonate solution with a calcium hydroxide stream to form calcium carbonate solids; and calcining the calcium carbonate solids to form calcium oxide and an output gas stream comprising CO.sub.2.

**14.** The method of claim 13, comprising slaking the calcium oxide to form the calcium hydroxide stream.

**15.** The method of claim 14, comprising: mixing the calcium carbonate solids and the calcium oxide in a hydrator; fluidizing the calcium carbonate solids and the calcium oxide with steam, at least some of the calcium oxide reacting with the steam to form at least some of the calcium hydroxide stream; and heating the calcium carbonate solids.

**16.** The method of claim 13, comprising: cooling the output gas stream to form a cooled output gas stream; and removing at least water from the cooled output gas stream to form a highly concentrated CO.sub.2 gas stream.

**17.** The method of claim 16, comprising compressing the highly concentrated CO.sub.2 gas stream to form a CO.sub.2 product stream.

**18.** The method of claim 17, comprising sequestering the CO.sub.2 product stream.

**19.** The method of claim 17, comprising utilizing the CO.sub.2 product stream as a feedstock for the production of synthetic hydrocarbons.

**20.** The method of claim 13, wherein flowing the atmospheric air through the at least one air contactor comprises absorbing CO.sub.2 from the atmospheric air with a potassium hydroxide solution and forming a potassium carbonate solution.

**21.** The method of claim 13, wherein calcining the calcium carbonate solids comprises combusting natural gas with oxygen.

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