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2741280 27 May 2011 (27.05.2011) CA(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EXXON-MOBIL UPSTREAM RESEARCH COMPANY** [US/US]; CORP-URC-SW359, P.O.Box 2189, Houston, TX 77252-2189 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF PROCESSING A BITUMINOUS FEED WITH FEEDBACK CONTROL

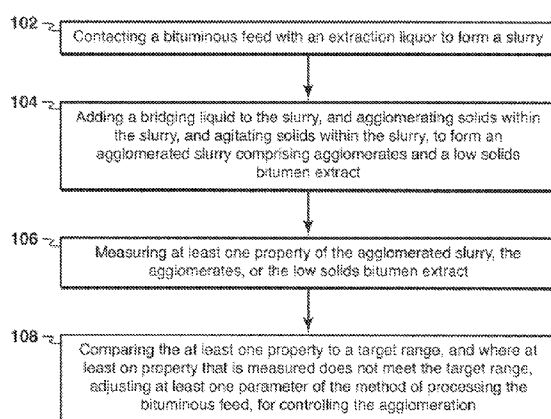


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Described herein is a method of processing a bituminous feed. The bituminous feed is contacted with an extraction liquor to form a slurry. A bridging liquid is added to the slurry, and, solids are agitated within the slurry to form an agglomerated slurry comprising agglomerates and a low solids bitumen extract. In order to control agglomeration, the slurry is analyzed and the processing method is adjusted accordingly.



LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2012/028573

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - C10G 1/04 (2012.01)

USPC - 208/390

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(8) - B01D 11/04; C10C 1/18; C10G 1/00, 04; G01N 9/32 (2012.01)

USPC - 196/14.52, 46; 208/390, 391, 424; 210/512, 787; 702/50

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PatBase, Google Patents, Proquest

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,719,008 A (SPARKS et al) 12 January 1988 (12.01.1988) entire document	1-13, 16-28
Y		14, 15
Y	US 4,057,486 A (MEADUS et al) 08 November 1977 (08.11.1977) entire document	14, 15
A	US 4,036,732 A (IRANI et al) 19 July 1977 (19.07.1977) entire document	1-28
A	US 2006/0016760 A1 (BOZAK et al) 26 January 2006 (26.01.2006) entire document	1-28

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.


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