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(54) Title: SINTERED SPHERICAL PELLETS

(57) Abstract: Sintered, spherical composite pellets or particles comprising alumina fines, at least one of clay and bauxite and optionally a sintering aid, are described, along with a process for their manufacture. The use of such pellets in hydraulic fracturing of subterranean formations and in grinding is also described.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/33092

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: **E21B 43/267**(2006.01)

USPC: 166/280.2,308.1
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)
U.S. : 166/280.2,308.1

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)
East : (proppant$1 with (sintered with alumin$2 with (clay bauxite)))

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,879,181 A (FITZFIBBON) 07 November 1989 (07.11.1989), see entire document, especially the detailed description, examples, and tables.	1-36
X	US 4,921,820 A (RUMPF et al.) 01 May 1990 (01.05.1990), see entire document, especially the detailed description, examples, and tables.	1-36

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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