METHOD FOR NITROGEN PREFILL OF HIGH PRESSURE OXYGEN-CONTAINING GAS LINE FOR GASIFICATION

The present invention provides a much safer solution to pressurizing oxygen-containing gas feed lines at the start up of an oxygen-containing gas using process unit. All piping downstream of the main oxygen-containing gas block valve is pressurized with inert nitrogen prior to introducing the oxygen-containing gas into the piping. By equalizing with nitrogen it removes the hazard of slowly pressurizing the piping with the oxygen-containing gas and exposing the oxygen-containing gas to the substantial pressure drop associated with pressurizing piping to a high pressure.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/US02/18905

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(7) : C07C 1/02
   US CL : 252/373
   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. : 252/373; 431/3,29; 432/2; 60/657,453

   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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 4,414,191 A (FUDERER) 08 November 1983 (08.11.1983), abstract, columns 3 and 4,</td>
<td>1-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 4,210,097 A (BYRD et al) 01 July 1980 (01.07.1980), abstract, claims.</td>
<td>1-4, 15-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report
23 DEC 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer
Edward M. Johnson
Telephone No. 703-308-0661

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)