

(51) International Patent Classification:
C22B 11/08 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2015/039223(22) International Filing Date:
6 July 2015 (06.07.2015)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
62/020,816 3 July 2014 (03.07.2014) US
62/020,976 3 July 2014 (03.07.2014) US(71) Applicant: ETHOX CHEMICALS, LLC [US/US]; 1801
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200 N. Main Street, Suite 301, Greenville, SC 29601 (US).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,
BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR,
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG,
MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM,
PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ,
TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU,
TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE,
DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU,
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, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a
patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVED PROCESS FOR RECOVERING PRECIOUS METALS FROM CLAY-CONTAINING ORES

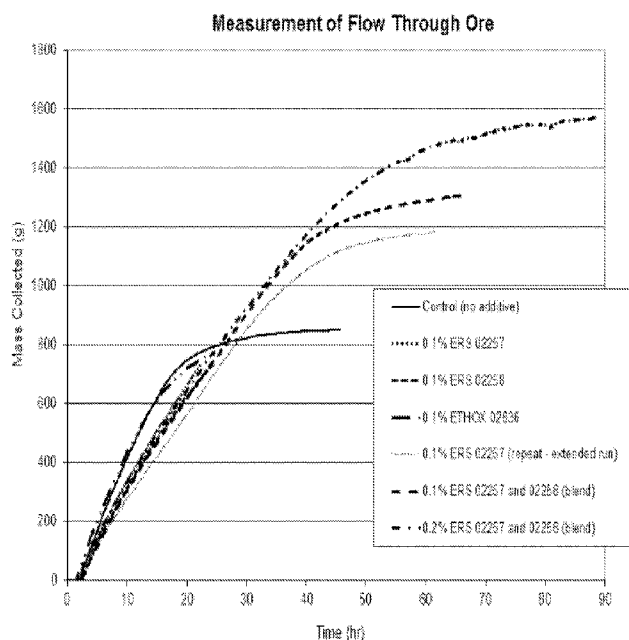


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A solution for leaching precious metals from
clay containing ore and a method of leaching ore is described.
The solution comprises a cyanide, a wetting agent, and a clay
stabilizing polymer. In a first embodiment a solution for
leaching precious metals from clay containing ore comprises
cyanide, a wetting agent, and a clay stabilizing polymer with a
pH of at least 8 to no more than 11.



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

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
21 April 2016

(15) Information about Correction:

Previous Correction:
see Notice of 10 March 2016

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2015/039223

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - C22B 11/08 (2015.01) CPC - C22B 11/08 (2015.09) 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) - C22B 11/08; C22B 3/04 (2015.01) CPC - C22B 11/08; C22B 3/04 (2015.09)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched IPC(8) - C22B 11/08; C22B 3/04 (2015.01); CPC - C22B 11/08; C22B 3/04 (2015.04) (keyword delimited)		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PatBase, Google Patents, Google Scholar Search terms used: leach heap pregnant clay kaolin ore mine cyanide wetting surfactant detergent stabilizing polyamide dicyandiamide formaldehyde ammonia PEG ester ethylene propylene polyester propoxylate ethoxylate diglycerol precious noble metal gold silver pH		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,332,559 A (BRIERLEY et al) 26 July 1994 (26.07.1994) entire document	1-6, 19, 22-31, 44, 47-50

Y		7-10, 32-35
Y	US 2008/0172937 A1 (PALMER et al) 24 July 2008 (24.07.2008) entire document	7-10, 32-35
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 03 September 2015		Date of mailing of the international search report 09 OCT 2015
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-8300		Authorized officer Blaine Copenheaver PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774