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12347/95

AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

Patent Request/Notice of Entitlement

We, KEMIRA KEMI AKTIEBOLAG of P.O. Box 902, S-251 09 Helsingborg, Sweden, being the Applicant and Nominated Person, request the grant of a patent for an invention entitled:

"PROCESS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HEAVY METALS"

which is described in the accompanying standard complete specification.

Convention priority is claimed from the following basic application:

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Country Code</u>	<u>Date of Application</u>
9400585-7	Sweden	SE	21st February 1994

The basic application was filed in our name as assignee of the actual inventor, Bengt Thomas Engstrom.

The basic application was the first application made in a Convention country in respect of the invention.

We have entitlement from the actual inventor by assignment, as indicated above.

Our address for service is care of E. F. WELLINGTON & CO., Patent Attorneys, 312 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria, 3004.

DATED this 20th day of February, 1995

For and on behalf of
KEMIRA KEMI AKTIEBOLAG,
By:

Bruce Wellington
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BRUCE S. WELLINGTON

Patent Attorney for Applicant

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To: The Commissioner of Patents,
Commonwealth of Australia
A/RR/3382/2



AU9512347

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-12347/95
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 681734

- (54) Title
PROCESS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HEAVY METALS
- International Patent Classification(s)
(51)⁶ D21C 011/00 B01D 021/01
- (21) Application No. : 12347/95 (22) Application Date : 20.02.95
- (30) Priority Data
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| (31) Number | (32) Date | (33) Country |
| 9400585 | 21.02.94 | SE SWEDEN |
- (43) Publication Date : 31.08.95
- (44) Publication Date of Accepted Application : 04.09.97
- (71) Applicant(s)
KEMIRA KEMI AKTIEBOLAG
- (72) Inventor(s)
BENGT THOMAS ENGSTROM
- (74) Attorney or Agent
E F WELLINGTON & CO , 312 St Kilda Road, MELBOURNE VIC 3004
- (56) Prior Art Documents
WO 9405850
WO 9421857
- (57) Claim

1. Process for the elimination of heavy metals from a closed white water system within the pulp and paper industry, characterized in that the pH of the white water is adjusted to between 5 and 11, and that the resins present are subsequently precipitated using a flocculation agent, whereby a simultaneous elimination of the heavy metals is obtained.

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PATENTS ACT 1990

REGULATION 3.2

Name of Applicant: KEMIRA KEMI AKTIEBOLAG

Actual Inventor/s: BENGT THOMAS ENGSTROM

Address for Service: E.F. WELLINGTON & CO.,
Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys,
312 St. Kilda Road,
Melbourne, 3004, Victoria.

Invention Title:

"PROCESS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HEAVY METALS"

Details of Associated Provisional Applications Nos:

The following statement is a full description of this invention
including the best method of performing it known to us.

DESCRIPTION

Technical field

The present invention relates to the elimination of heavy metals from white water in the pulp and paper industry.

- 5 The object of the present invention is to obtain a possibility to eliminate heavy metals from a closed white water system within the pulp and paper industry.

Background of the invention

- 10 Today, within the pulp and paper industry, there is a more frequent closing of the white water systems. This is, as such, a positive environmental factor, by reducing the discharge to different recipients, but means increased problems, as well, within the industry by accumulation of different compounds in the white water systems as closed. Thus there is an accumula-
15 tion of resins and heavy metals in the white water, which different compounds have to be eliminated in order not to create problems at the production of paper and pulp at the renewed use of the white water. Resins and heavy metals are present in different concentrations in the wooden raw materials depending on its origin.

The resins can be precipitated chemically by using flocculation agents followed by flotation or sedimentation whereby the white water as such can be treated using such a flocculating agent.

One has, however, not known how to treat the heavy metals.

Description of the present invention

- 20 It has now surprisingly turned out possible to be able to eliminate the heavy metals from the white water in accordance with the present invention which is characterized in that one adjusts the pH of the white water to between 5 and 11, and that
30 one subsequently precipitates the resins present using a flocculation agent whereby, simultaneously, an elimination of the

heavy metals is carried out.

By means of the present invention it is achieved that 60 to 90% of the heavy metals present are eliminated.

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The process is preferably carried out at a pH of between 6.5 and 11, more preferably between 7 and 9.5. Thus it has turned out that an optimal reduction of the Mn-level is obtained at pH 8, while optimal reduction of Fe is obtained at a somewhat

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higher pH. The white water contains a large amount of heavy metals and other metals, such as W, Cr, Cd, Pb, Bi, Co, Se, Hg, Ni, Zn, Ti, Cu, Mn, Mo, Sr, Fe, As, V, Al, S, Mg and Ca. The latter two

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should, desirably, not be eliminated. For the precipitation of the resins a synthetic coagulant is used as flocculation agent, such as polyimine, polyimide, polyacrylic amide, polyethylene oxide, phenolic resins, or combinations thereof.

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By means of the present invention there is no need for addition of a coagulant, such as aluminium sulphate, aluminium chloride, polyaluminium sulphates, polyaluminium chlorides, or the similar to the white water, but an effective precipitation of the resins and the heavy metals are obtained by using a flocculant only.

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The present process is preferably carried out at the pulp manufacturing site, whereby the necessity for carrying out the process in a subsequent paper production stage is more or less eliminated. The pulp will be freed of the heavy metals in the pulp manufacturing stage.

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The invention will be described in the following with reference to an operation with white water from a pulp industry, the pH of the white water being adjusted to pH 7, whereupon polyethy-

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lene oxide was added in such an amount as to provide flocculation of the resins present.

Table 1

	Heavy metal	% elimination
5	W	89
	Cr	87
	Cd	90
	Pb	90
	Bi	90
10	Co	90
	Se	78
	Hg	83
	Ni	94
	Zn	86
15	Ti	99
	Cu	69
	Mn	76
	Mo	58
	Sr	58
20	Fe	63
	As	18
	V	16
	Al	38
	S	27
25	Mg	26
	Ca	15

As evident from the above table a considerable elimination of the heavy metals was obtained.

30 Trials to precipitate the heavy metals without a simultaneous precipitation of the resins showed that no elimination of the heavy metals was obtained.

The matter contained in each of the following claims is to be read as part of the general description of the present invention.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. Process for the elimination of heavy metals from a closed white water system within the pulp and paper industry, characterized in that the pH of the white water is adjusted to between 5 and 11, and that the resins present are subsequently precipitated using a flocculation agent, whereby a simultaneous elimination of the heavy metals is obtained.

2. Process according to claim 1 characterized in that the pH is adjusted to between 6.5 and 11.

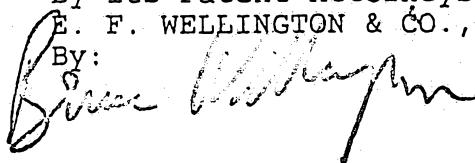
3. Process according to claim 2, characterized in that the pH is adjusted to 7 to 9.5.

4. Process according to claim 2, characterized in that the pH is adjusted to 7 to 8.5.

5. Process according to claim 1, substantially as described herein.

DATED this 20th day of February, 1995

KEMIRA KEMI AKTIEBOLAG,
By its Patent Attorneys,
E. F. WELLINGTON & CO.,
By:


(B. S. Wellington)

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a process for the elimination of heavy metals from a closed white water system within the pulp and paper industry, wherein one adjusts the pH of the
5 white water to between 5 and 11, and that one subsequently precipitates the resins present using a flocculation agent, whereby a simultaneous elimination of the heavy metals is obtained.

