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(54) Title: TREATMENT OF POLLUTED AQUEOUS LIQUIDS

(57) Abstract: The disclosure relates to a method of treatment of aqueous liquid contaminated by pollutants, comprising the steps of: (i) mixing the contaminated aqueous liquid with a mineral binder in order to produce a homogeneous slurry, (ii) depositing the slurry, (iii) letting the slurry set and harden, wherein the mineral binder comprises Portland cement, and wherein the contaminated aqueous liquid comprises organic pollutants.



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### TREATMENT OF POLLUTED AQUEOUS LIQUIDS

The disclosure relates to the treatment of polluted aqueous liquids. More particularly, the disclosure relates to a method of treatment of aqueous liquid contaminated by organic  
5 pollutants.

Polluted liquids need to be decontaminated for obvious environmental reasons. Pollutants can be inorganic but also of organic type, including PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid). These are members of a family of related compounds  
10 commonly known as (PFAS) or Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.

PFAS are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don't break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

PFAS substances are a group of man-made chemicals that can be found in food packaged in  
15 PFAS-containing materials, processed with equipment that used PFAS, or grown in PFAS-contaminated soil or water or in commercial household products, including stain- and water-repellent fabrics, nonstick products (e.g., Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products, and fire-fighting foams (a major source of groundwater contamination at airports and military bases where firefighting training occurs).

20 Thus PFAS substances are often present in waste. When these wastes are stored in a landfill, the PFAS substances will frequently be present in the leachate generated in the landfill and collected in a drainage system that is discharged to municipal wastewater treatment plants, recirculated on the landfill, or even transported to a separate waste management facility.

By the method of the disclosure such organic pollutants can be encapsulated in an inorganic  
25 matrix formed by mixing the contaminated aqueous liquid with a mineral binder. The inorganic matrix of the disclosure does not develop a high strength and can thus easily be excavated. The excavated material may be particularly useful as daily or interim cover for waste piles, especially waste piles located at the generating landfill.

During the processing or storage of waste, waste may be concentrated into piles within  
30 landfills, compost windows, sludge heaps, etc. When waste is concentrated into piles, it is often necessary to cover them to minimize their odor, prevent fires, prevent the movement of the waste, and prevent vectors such as birds, flies, and other insects from feeding thereon.

Waste piles can be covered by spreading a layer of hydraulic binder over the exposed portions of the waste piles.

The method of the disclosure significantly reduces the leachability of organic pollutants, including PFAS, in the polluted aqueous liquid and adds value to the product resulting from the method as a waste pile cover, in particular as a daily or interim waste pile cover. The method of the disclosure is particularly advantageous when the polluted aqueous liquid is a leachate from a landfill where the method is put into practice. Then the encapsulation step and the recovery step are performed at the same landfill site, thus further saving transport costs and avoiding handling and transportation of polluted liquid.

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US 5 161 915 discloses method of treatment of polluted leachate. The main purpose of the disclosure is to prepare a cover of a landfill. Cellulose is added to the mixture to reduce the erosion of the landfill cover. It is not mentioned that the disclosure is capable of trapping the pollutants that are initially in the leachate. There is no indication that organic pollutants are treated in this document.

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US 7 284 930 relates to the preparation of a hard cover for landfills, and is quite similar to US 5 161 915. This patent contains an additional feature to increase the adhesion of the cover on glass and plastic elements by included specific polymers into the composition, which is, according to this invention, the main issue with US 5 161 915. There is no indication that organic pollutants are treated in this document.

20

In US 8 236 098, polluted leachate is used to prepare a building material, where the leachate is used to replace some or all of the mixing water. The use of leachate is said to increase the concrete properties. A claimed advantage of the disclosure is to reduce the consumption of fresh clean water for the preparation of building materials. There is no specific mention that mixing cement with leachate can effectively encapsulate pollutants. The purpose of this disclosure is to make a building material with a minimum compressive strength of at least 2 MPa.

25

Co-management of landfill leachate concentrate with brick waste by solidification/stabilization treatment is disclosed in *Kallel et al. (Co-management of landfill leachate concentrate with brick waste by solidification/stabilization treatment, Arab J Geosci (2017) 10:81)*. This process may use leachate concentrate from landfills but the focus is on making a concrete material from the leachate and recycled brick as well as other traditional

30

concrete materials. They were looking at strengths of at least 25 MPa, which is not suitable for the present disclosure being too high for an interim or daily waste cover.

It is, therefore, an object of the present disclosure to provide a method of treatment of aqueous liquid contaminated by pollutants, comprising the steps of:

- (i) mixing the contaminated aqueous liquid with a mineral binder in order to produce a homogeneous slurry,
- (ii) depositing, especially spraying, the slurry,
- (iii) letting the slurry set and harden,

wherein the mineral binder comprises Portland cement, and wherein the contaminated aqueous liquid comprises organic pollutants.

It is also an object of the present disclosure to provide a method of treatment of an aqueous landfill leachate or an aqueous leachate concentrate contaminated by organic pollutants, comprising the steps of:

- (i) mixing the aqueous landfill leachate or the aqueous landfill leachate concentrate with a mineral binder containing Portland cement in order to produce a homogeneous slurry,
- (ii) depositing, advantageously spraying, the slurry on a waste pile to form a daily or interim cover,
- (iii) letting the slurry set and harden for later use as a daily or interim cover on the waste pile.

The disclosure does not aim at making a building material nor making a material having any compressive strength requirement. On the contrary, to be used as daily or interim cover on the waste pile, the material has to be easily excavated.

The term "setting" is to be understood according to the present disclosure as the passage to the solid state by chemical hydration reaction of the binder. The setting is generally followed by a hardening period.

The term "hardening" is to be understood according to the present disclosure as the development of mechanical properties of a hydraulic binder, after the end of the setting.

Mineral binder:

The mineral binder contains Portland cement.

The mineral binder preferentially also contains a mineral component between 0 wt.-% and 80 wt.-%, more preferentially between 35 wt.-% and 80 wt.-% of mineral binder. The mineral component is preferentially selected from cement kiln dust (CKD), lime dust, ground limestone, ground slag, fly ash, burnt oil shale, or is a mixture thereof. Even more  
5 preferentially, the mineral component is cement kiln dust.

The Portland cement of the disclosure is preferably, according to the ASTM classification C150 / C150M of 2018, either a Type I cement, a Type II cement, a Type III cement, a Type IV cement, or a Type V Cement. More preferentially, the Portland cement of the disclosure is a Type I, Type II or a Type III cement, preferentially a Type I or Type III cement. The Portland  
10 cement can be a mixture of different Portland cements.

An ASTM Type I cement is a general-purpose cement for the construction industry. It is characterized by a significant amount of alite phase, and has an average to high strength development. An ASTM Type III cement is formulated in order to develop high early strength. It is typically ground more finely than a Type I cement, and may also have a different  
15 mineralogical and chemical composition, such as higher C3A and calcium sulfate contents.

Portland cements classified according to the European Standard NF EN 197-1 of April 2012, a CEM I, a CEM II, a CEM III, a CEM IV or a CEM V, are also suitable for this invention. More preferentially, a CEM I or a CEM II can be used.

Cement kiln dust (CKD) is a by-product of the cement manufacturing process, whereby  
20 combustion gases generated in the production of cement clinker carry finely divided, calcium rich particles out of the kiln where they are captured in dust collectors. CKD can be removed from kiln system or be returned to the process, depending on its chemistry. These dusts are very fine, with a specific surface area of roughly  $0.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , and often contain significant amounts of free lime (CaO). The composition of cement kiln dust can vary considerably,  
25 depending on the kiln type and the composition of the raw materials entering the kiln. Cement kiln dust often contain significant levels of sodium and potassium salts, as well as magnesium oxide and metal chlorides.

In an embodiment, the mineral binder comprises Portland cement and between 0 wt.-% and 50 wt.-%, more preferentially between 35 wt.-% and 50 wt.-%, of additional mineral  
30 component, the percentage being expressed in weight of mineral component compared to the total weight of the mineral binder. Preferably, the sum of Portland cement and the additional mineral component is 100 wt%, meaning that the mineral binder does not

comprise components other than the Portland cement and the additional mineral component.

In another embodiment, the mineral binder comprises Portland cement and between 50 wt.-% and 80 wt.-%, more preferentially between 60 wt.-% and 75 wt.-%, of additional mineral component, the percentage being expressed in weight of mineral component compared to the total weight of the mineral binder. In this embodiment, the additional mineral component is preferably cement kiln dust. Preferably, the sum of Portland cement and additional mineral component is 100 wt%, meaning that the mineral binder does not comprise components other than the Portland cement and the additional mineral component.

In another embodiment, the mineral binder comprises Portland cement only. In other words, mineral binder comprises 100% by weight of Portland cement.

#### Aqueous liquid contaminated by pollutants

Any aqueous liquid contaminated by organic pollutant(s) can be used. Usually the aqueous liquid will also be contaminated by inorganic pollutant(s). The method of the disclosure allows for the treatment of both organic and inorganic pollutants.

In the present invention, the terms "aqueous liquid contaminated by pollutants", "contaminated aqueous liquid" and "polluted aqueous liquid" will be used interchangeably.

The method of the disclosure is particularly suited for the treatment of contaminated aqueous liquids that are heavily polluted. More specifically, the method of the disclosure enables the immobilization of several inorganic and organic pollutants, more preferentially organic pollutants, and even more preferentially PFAS. Advantageously, the contaminated aqueous liquid comprises at least 10 ng/L, even at least 15 ng/L, even at least 20 ng/L, of PFAS substances. Advantageously, the contaminated aqueous liquid comprises up to 10g/L of PFAS substances, or up to 1 g/L.

The immobilization of the pollutants here means, without being bound by any theory, that the pollutants are trapped in the inorganic matrix form by the binder when hardening and, rendered insoluble. Once immobilized, the pollutants cannot contaminate the local environment, such as soils, groundwater, and the ecosystem at large. The pollutants could be either chemically or physically bound within the inorganic matrix, which is formed as a result of the hydration of the mineral binder, due to its chemical reactions with water.

The polluted aqueous liquid is advantageously an aqueous landfill leachate, especially landfill leachate concentrate.

Landfill leachate is defined as all water that has been in contact with waste stored in a landfill.

5 It is caught in the drainage system and undergoes special wastewater treatment.

Landfill leachate concentrates preferentially represent in volume 5% to 30% of the total volume of landfill leachate, more advantageously in volume 10 to 20%, of the total volume of landfill leachate. Such concentrates are thus heavily contaminated by several pollutants, such as mineral anions, mineral cations, and organic compounds. The anions are often sulfates and halides and the cations are frequently soluble heavy metals. The organic  
10 compounds often contain particularly PFAS substances which are usually present at a concentration above 10 ng/L, or above 15 ng/L, even above 25 ng/L, for instance up to 10 g/L, or up to 1 g/L.

15 Alternatively, the polluted aqueous liquid can be a sludge from wastewater treatment plants.

#### Method steps and preferred uses

First, the contaminated aqueous liquid and the mineral binder, both as described above, are mixed to produce a homogeneous slurry.

20 The mixing step (i) can be carried out in a batch process or continuously.

In order to implement the method of the present invention, the mineral binder of the disclosure is typically stored in a silo. The mineral binder is then added to a blender where it is mixed with the contaminated aqueous liquid with standard mixing equipment. A weigh feeder, or an equivalent method of addition, is used to adjust the amount of mineral binder  
25 to be added. The mixer can be a planetary mixer, an open mixer, or a continuous mixer.

The preferred mass ratio between the mineral binder of the disclosure and the contaminated aqueous liquid ranges from 40:60 to 60:40 and is preferably 50 wt.-% / 50% wt.-%.

The mix preferably does not comprise fibers, such as cellulose fibers, textile fibers, glass  
30 fibers, plastic fibers, chopped straw and hay, and combinations thereof.

The mix preferably does not comprise polymer or latex.

The mix preferably does not comprise sand or granulates or gravels or any brick waste fractions.

In a preferred embodiment, the mix will only contain the contaminated aqueous leachate or the leachate concentrate, the Portland cement and optionally the mineral component. Accordingly and advantageously, the mix will only contain the contaminated aqueous leachate or the leachate concentrate and the mineral binder disclosed previously.

5

Secondly, the homogeneous slurry is deposited, preferably sprayed, advantageously on the waste pile.

The person skilled in the art can adapt the total amount of water, or add additional water during the mixing, should the slurry be difficult to mix or too thick for being pumped and sprayed.

10

It has been advantageously noticed that the slurry does not form free water after 12 hours, more advantageously after 24 hours.

Third, the slurry is allowed to set and harden. In other words, the method comprises a step (iii) of hardening of the slurry.

15

The resulting material does not develop a high strength and could easily be excavated, which is a necessary feature of landfill daily covers. Advantageously, the compressive strength at 28 days of the material is less than 15 MPa, preferably less than 10 MPa, more preferably less 3 MPa, even more preferably less than 2 MPa.

20

The method of treatment of the present disclosure is preferentially done on site, i.e. directly where the polluted liquid is collected, especially at a landfill site. This avoids dangerous handling and transportation of the polluted liquid to facilities that are suitable for the treatment of such waste products, and also eliminates the risk of accidentally spilling the polluted waste, which would in turn contaminate groundwater or soil.

25

#### Aqueous landfill leachate or leachate concentrate contaminated by pollutants

The method of the disclosure is particularly suitable for treating leachates, especially leachate concentrates, in landfill operations.

30

In landfill operations, the waste materials need to be covered on a daily basis for the health and safety of its local environment and to reduce the disturbances related to unpleasant

odors from the landfill. This covering layer is typically called a daily cover. The method of treatment of the disclosure optionally includes an additional step where, immediately after mixing the mineral binder with the contaminated aqueous liquid, the fresh resulting slurry is sprayed directly onto the landfill in a layer typically 5 to 10 cm thick. The layer can be made  
5 thicker if regulations require this. Once the mineral binder has set, this layer becomes a solid excavatable cover of the landfill, which is a suitable daily or interim cover of the landfill.

It is not an aim of the method of the present disclosure to produce a material that can be used as a hard or permanent cover of a permanently closed and capped landfill.

The mixing of the mineral binder and the polluted liquid produces a slurry that is then sprayed  
10 onto the landfill to generate the daily or interim cover of the landfill. Once hardened, the slurry becomes stiff but has a low compressive strength and is easily excavated.

Advantageously, the slurry is sprayed in a layer of comprised between 5 and 10 cm to form a daily cover of waste piles. The layer can be made thicker if regulations require this.

15 The disclosure is particularly directed to a method of treatment provide a method of treatment of an aqueous landfill leachate or an aqueous leachate concentrate contaminated by organic pollutants, comprising the steps of:

- (i) mixing the aqueous landfill leachate or the aqueous landfill leachate concentrate with a mineral binder containing Portland cement in order to produce a homogeneous slurry,
- 20 (ii) depositing, advantageously spraying, the slurry on a waste pile to form a daily or interim cover,
- (iii) letting the slurry set and harden for later use as a daily or interim cover on the waste pile.

25 The mineral binder is as described above. Landfill leachates and leachate concentrates are as described above.

Steps (i) to (iii) are preferably done on site, directly at the landfill site.

The method of the disclosure allows solidification of organics pollutants, especially PFAS, in  
30 leachate, or other sources of water, for the express purpose of reducing the likelihood of the compounds re-entering either the landfill leachate, the groundwater, or soil.

The method of the disclosure will stabilize, including change the chemistry, of heavy metals and make them insoluble, non-hazardous and non-leachable while simultaneously solidifying or encapsulating the organic molecules.

- 5 The following examples illustrate the invention.

### Materials

The type of cement is defined by reference to the ASTM classification C150 / C150M of 2018.

10

<b>Material type</b>	<b>Short description</b>	<b>Origin (plant)</b>
Type I	Portland Cement	Alpena cement plant, Michigan, US
Type III	High early age strength Portland Cement	Alpena cement plant, Michigan, US
CKD	Cement Kiln Dust	Alpena cement plant, Michigan, US

Composition of mineral binders (% are expressed in weight compared to the total weight of cement and CKD)

<b>Mineral binder reference</b>	<b>Cement type and content</b>	<b>CKD content</b>
<b>LH Mix 1</b>	Type I - 50 wt.-%	50 wt.-%
<b>LH Mix 2</b>	Type I - 30 wt.-%	70 wt.-%
<b>LH Mix 3</b>	Type I - 100 wt.-%	0 wt.-%
<b>LH Mix 4</b>	Type III – 37.5 wt.-%	62.5 wt.-%

15

In the following examples, the leachate concentrate is treated by mixing it with the mineral binder in a planetary mixer, to produce a slurry. Accordingly, the slurry consists of the leachate concentrate and the mineral binder. The mineral binder content in the slurry is 50 wt.-% with mixes LH Mix 1, LH Mix 2 and LH Mix 4. In the case of LH Mix 3, the mineral binder content in the slurry is 44.4 wt.-%. In all cases, the mineral binder content, in percentage, is expressed in weight of mineral binder compared to the total weight of the slurry.

20

For all the slurries prepared in these examples, the amount of free water that was generated was visually assessed. Cement slurries, if left to sit without mixing and under the effect of gravity, can segregate before the cement actually sets. This means that the heavier elements of the slurry, here the mineral components migrate, to the lower part of the slurry, and a layer of free water forms on the top of the slurry. Such a phenomenon is not suitable for forming a good quality daily cover of a landfill.

None of the slurries prepared in these examples exhibited free water after 12 hours, even after 24 hours.

Also, once hardened, the slurries did not develop a high strength and could easily be excavated, which is a necessary feature of landfill daily covers.

In all of the following examples, the extraction procedure and the testing methods used to dose the contaminants in the polluted leachate concentrate in the treated leachate are described in the SW-846 Test Method 1310B of November 2004, issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

#### Leachate performance of liquids polluted by inorganic elements

In the following table, the concentration of different contaminants is measured in the reference leachate concentrate, and in different samples treated by the mineral binders LH Mix 1, LH Mix 2, LH Mix 3 and LH Mix 4.

The results show that all mixes are able to reduce the measured amount of pollutants. More specifically:

- Chloride levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Chromium levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Copper levels are 1 order of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Iron levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Magnesium levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Manganese levels are 2-3 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Nickel levels are 1 order of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Nitrogen/Ammonia levels are 2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Potassium levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Residue, Dissolved (TDS) 1 order of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Selenium levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,
- Sodium levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders,

- Sulfate levels were lower with all mineral binders, especially with LH Mix 3 (3 orders of magnitude),
- Zinc levels are 1-2 orders of magnitude lower with all mineral binders.

5 It was also found that LH Mix 3 outperformed all other mix designs in reducing leachable contaminant concentrations in nearly all cases. LH Mix 1 performed overall well, as well as LH Mix 2, with a few minor exceptions. LH Mix 4 mix did give some improved performance over LH Mix 2, but not significantly.

LH Mix 3 was the most efficient at reducing the leachability of all contaminants compared to the other mixes.

10

Cement Type III (LH Mix 4) was able to reduce the amount of contaminants without, but not as well as Type I cement (LH Mix 3).

	Unit	Reference	LH Mix 1	LH Mix 2	LH Mix 3	LH Mix 4
<b>Alkalinity, Total</b>	mg/L	2,940	2,700	2,400	1,800	2,200
<b>Aluminum</b>	µg/L	700	2,600	990	1,100	200
<b>Antimony</b>	µg/L	<10	2.6	0.66	0.52	0.38
<b>Arsenic</b>	µg/L	432	4.0	4.2	1.3	3.7
<b>Barium</b>	µg/L	819	250	250	810	250
<b>Beryllium</b>	µg/L	<5	ND	ND	ND	ND
<b>Cadmium</b>	µg/L	<1	0.28	0.31	ND	ND
<b>Calcium</b>	µg/L	522,000	1,000,000	1,100,000	600,000	1,100,000
<b>Chemical Oxygen Demand</b>	mg/L	5,460	80	100	38	97
<b>Chloride</b>	mg/L	6,940	150	210	53	190
<b>Chromium</b>	µg/L	446	39	35	5	5.4
<b>Copper</b>	µg/L	22.7	7.3	3.9	2.3	1.6
<b>Iron</b>	µg/L	19,100	2,600	1,300	890	780
<b>Lead</b>	µg/L	14.3	40	39	13	22
<b>Magnesium</b>	µg/L	425,000	1,700	660	410	180
<b>Manganese</b>	µg/L	2,980	84	30	22	6.2

	Unit	Reference	LH Mix 1	LH Mix 2	LH Mix 3	LH Mix 4
<b>Mercury</b>	µg/L	<0.2	ND	ND	ND	ND
<b>Nickel</b>	µg/L	418	37	30	11	30
<b>Nitrogen, Ammonia</b>	mg/L	1,850	20	18	15	26
<b>Potassium</b>	µg/L	1,930,000	390,000	690,000	65,000	470,000
<b>Residue, Dissolved (TDS)</b>	mg/L	22,000	4,550	5,110	1,760	4,840
<b>Selenium</b>	µg/L	43.5	4.0	4.7	ND	3.6
<b>Silver</b>	µg/L	<1	0.57	0.29	ND	ND
<b>Sodium</b>	µg/L	4,930,000	150,000	210,000	80,000	180,000
<b>Sulfate</b>	mg/L	8,530	1,400	1,700	3.1	1,500
<b>Thallium</b>	µg/L	<1	1.9	3.4	0.24	1.7
<b>Zinc</b>	µg/L	541	48	20	ND	8.7

*ND: Not Detected*

#### Leachte Performance of liquids polluted by organic elements

The results shown below prove that the method of the present invention, applied with any  
5 of the mineral binders tested, is able to suppress most if not all of the organic pollutants that  
were initially present in the reference. Overall LH Mix 3 performed best to reduce the  
concentration of organic pollutants.

Analyte	Unit	Ref	LH Mix 1	LH Mix 4	LH Mix 3	LH Mix 4
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	ng/L	1100	28.9	28.2	11.4	33.6
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	ng/L	110	ND	ND	ND	ND
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	ng/L	<10	ND	ND	ND	ND
Perfluorotridecanoic Acid (PFTriA)	ng/L	<10	ND	ND	ND	ND
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeA)	ng/L	<10	ND	ND	ND	ND
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	ng/L	1100	29.2	37.1	14.1	34.4
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	ng/L	6000	107	137	49.6	127
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	ng/L	1800	28.4	35.3	12.1	31.8
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	ng/L	<500	ND	ND	ND	ND
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	ng/L	<500	ND	ND	ND	ND
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	ng/L	1800	31.7	40.5	14.5	35.8
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	ng/L	<500	2.22	2.6	ND	2.6
N-methyl perfluorooctane sulfonamidoacetic acid (NMeFOSAA)	ng/L	<5000	ND	ND	ND	ND
N-ethyl perfluorooctane sulfonamidoacetic acid (NEtFOSAA)	ng/L	<5000	ND	ND	ND	ND

ND: Not Detected

## Claims

1. A method of treatment of aqueous liquid contaminated by pollutants, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 (i) mixing the contaminated aqueous liquid with a mineral binder in order to produce a homogeneous slurry,
  - (ii) depositing the slurry,
  - (iii) letting the slurry set and harden,wherein the mineral binder comprises Portland cement, and wherein the contaminated  
10 aqueous liquid comprises organic pollutants.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mineral binder further comprises a mineral component selected from cement kiln dust, lime dust, ground limestone, ground slag, fly ash, burnt oil shale, or is a mixture thereof.  
15
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mineral binder further comprises cement kiln dust.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein in step (ii) the slurry is sprayed.  
20
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein steps (i) to (iii) are done on site, especially at a landfill site.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixing step (i) is carried out in a batch  
25 process or continuously.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the organic pollutants comprise per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- 30 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the contaminated aqueous liquid is an aqueous landfill leachate

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the contaminated aqueous liquid is a concentrate of aqueous landfill leachate, the concentrate comprises between 5% and 30%, inclusive, by volume of a total volume of aqueous landfill leachate.
- 5 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the concentrate comprises between 10% and 20%, inclusive, by volume of the total volume of aqueous landfill leachate.
11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the contaminated aqueous liquid is a sludge from wastewater treatment plants.
- 10
12. A method of treatment of an aqueous landfill leachate or an aqueous leachate concentrate contaminated by organic pollutants, comprising the steps of:
- (i) mixing the aqueous landfill leachate or the aqueous landfill leachate concentrate with a mineral binder containing Portland cement in order to produce a homogeneous slurry,
  - 15 (ii) depositing the slurry on a waste pile to form a daily or interim cover,
  - (iii) letting the slurry set and harden as a daily or interim cover on the waste pile.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the landfill leachate concentrate comprises at least 10 ng/L-of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- 20
14. The method according to claim 12, wherein in step (ii) the slurry is sprayed.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein steps (i) to (iii) are done on site, at the landfill site.
- 25 16. the method of claim 12, wherein the mineral binder further comprises a mineral component.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the mineral component comprises from 35 wt% to 80 wt%, inclusive, of the mineral binder.
- 30
18. The method of claim 16, wherein the mineral component comprises cement kiln dust.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein a material resulting from the set slurry has a compressive strength at 28 days of less than 15 MPa.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein hardening the homogeneous slurry comprises  
5 trapping the organic pollutant within the mineral binder.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No  
PCT/EP2020/069390

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 INV. C02F11/00  
 ADD. C02F101/36 C02F103/06

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)  
 C02F

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)  
 EPO-Internal, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

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

\* Special categories of cited documents :

<p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search <b>29 September 2020</b>	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>15/10/2020</b>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <b>Liebig, Thomas</b>
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