

Title (en)  
METHODS OF USING NATURAL PRODUCTS AS DEWATERING AIDS FOR FINE PARTICLES

Title (de)  
VERFAHREN ZUR VERWENDUNG VON NATÜRLICHEN PRODUKTEN ALS ENTWÄSSERUNGSHILFEN FÜR FEINE TEILCHEN

Title (fr)  
PROCEDES PERMETTANT D'UTILISER DES PRODUITS NATURELS COMME AUXILIAIRES DE DESHYDRATATION DE PARTICULES FINES

Publication  
**EP 1406711 B1 20091118 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 00967147 A 20000928**

Priority  
US 0026925 W 20000928

Abstract (en)  
[origin: WO0226340A2] A new method of improving the process of dewatering fine particulate materials is disclosed. In this method, an aqueous slurry of fine particles is treated with appropriate hydrophobizing reagents so that the particulate material becomes moderately hydrophobic. A lipid of vegetable or animal origin is then added to the slurry in solutions of light hydrocarbon oils and short-chain alcohols, so that the hydrophobic lipid molecules adsorb on the moderately hydrophobic surface and, thereby, greatly enhance its hydrophobicity. By virtue of the enhanced hydrophobicity, the water molecules adhering to the surface are destabilized and more readily removed during the process of mechanical dewatering. The moisture reduction can be further improved using appropriate electrolytes in conjunction with the lipids, spraying surface tension lowering reagents onto the filter cake, subjecting the cake to a suitable vibratory means, and using combinations thereof.

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