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Robertson et al.

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(54) **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR LEACHING A METAL-BEARING ORE USING A BIO-AUGMENTATION PROCESS**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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(56) **References Cited**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(63) Continuation of application No. 14/427,535, filed as application No. PCT/US2013/058188 on Sep. 5, 2013, now Pat. No. 10,370,738.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for recovering a metal value from a metal-bearing ore material are provided. A metal-bearing ore can be mixed with certain substances and to form an agglomerated ore. In an intermediate state, between agglomeration and heap formation, bacteria can be added to the metal-bearing ore material to produce an augmented ore. The augmented ore can then be formed into a heap. Bacteria from the heap may be fortified to assist in bacterial growth.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **C22B 3/18** (2013.01); **C22B 3/02** (2013.01); **Y02P 10/234** (2015.11)

15 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

