

United States Patent

Morris et al.

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[54] **SEPARATION OF DISCOLORANTS
FROM CLAY**

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[51] Int. Cl. **B03b 1/04, C01b 35/00**

[58] Field of Search **209/5, 3, 9; 210/37, 10;**
23/110, 110 P; 106/72, 288

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A process for beneficiating a dispersed kaolin clay mass by removing from a dispersed clay mass the contaminant which causes the formation of a thin, dull layer of yellow or brownish-yellow material, commonly referred to as "scum," on surfaces of dried material containing the dispersed clay. The process comprises raising the pH of an aqueous dispersion of the clay to at least 12 and at that pH separating the insoluble clay from the solubilized discoloring contaminant.

6 Claims, No Drawings