

[54] SULFUR WELL SEALING METHOD

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[57] ABSTRACT

[73] Assignee: Freeport Minerals Company, New York, N.Y.

A method is disclosed for sealing a sulfur well wherein the well is made to discharge only sulfur and air instead of mixtures of sulfur, water and air. The method is used in conjunction with the Frasch mining technique when starting a new well for the first time and when an active well has "blown". The method consists of shutting off the sulfur line and air line, "boosting" the well by sending down hot "superheated water" through the water line to raise the level of the sulfur pool by melting additional sulfur, slowly applying a pressurized gas to the top of the sulfur line and holding at an elevated pressure for a period of time and then slowly releasing the pressurized gas. The air line is then opened and pressurized, and a mixture of sulfur and air, devoid of water, exits through the sulfur line.

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[58] Field of Search 299/4-6; 166/305 R, 314

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9 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

