

- [54] **CHLORIDE HYDROMETALLURGICAL PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION OF COPPER**
- [75] Inventors: Donald P. Satchell, Jr., Princeton Junction, N.J.; John N. Gerlach, Morenci, Ariz.
- [73] Assignee: Phelps Dodge Corporation, New York, N.Y.
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*Primary Examiner*—John F. Niebling  
*Assistant Examiner*—Terryence Chapman  
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Donald E. Degling; Paul H. Ginsburg

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A process for extractive metallurgy of metal sulfides, in particular copper sulfide ores, in which a metal sulfide mineral feed material is cocurrently oxidized in an aqueous cupric chloride solution in the presence of an oxidant to form a slurry containing a metal hydroxide precipitate; the slurry is leached with an acid; the leach solution is extracted with an organic extractant; the organic extractant is stripped with an aqueous stripping medium; and the copper is electrowon from the aqueous stripping medium. The large amount of acid required for the oxidation reaction is provided by the formation of the metal hydroxide precipitate.

16 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

