United States Patent [19]

Touro

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[54] **PROCESS FOR THE REMOVAL OF MERCURY FROM PRECIOUS METAL-CYANIDE LIQUORS**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[4] **C10G 13/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **423/101**; 423/29; 423/37; 423/42; 423/109; 75/106; 75/108; 75/118 R; 210/705

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 423/27, 26, 29, 30, 423/37, 101, 109; 75/2, 97 A, 101 R, 106, 105, 108, 118 R, 121; 210/702, 705, 723

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

This invention is a process for removing mercury from the desorption or cyanide liquor of a precious metal recovery, cyanide leach system. A sulfide ion-producing compound and a flocculating agent are added to the desorption liquor to form and flocculate mercuric sulfide. The desorption liquor typically has a cyanide concentration of between about 0.5 percent and about 2.0 percent by weight. The flocculated mercuric sulfide is separated from a substantially mercury-free precious metal-containing, cyanide solution.

10 Claims, 1 Drawing Figure