

[54] **METHOD FOR THE RECOVERY OF GOLD USING AUTOCLAVING**

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[58] Field of Search **75/101 R, 105, 118 R, 75/106, 108; 423/27, 29, 30, 31, 47, 144, 34**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A gold recovery pretreatment process is disclosed in which the gold content is more completely extracted from refractory sulfidic ores which contain large quantities of metal carbonates such as dolomite than occurs in traditional gold extraction methods. The process includes treating the ore in an autoclave at elevated temperature and oxygen overpressure conditions in the presence of soda ash or other alkaline materials. The autoclaving of the slurried ore is performed for a sufficient amount of time to oxidize the sulfidic compounds in the ore. The oxidized ore is then more amenable to subsequent conventional gold extraction techniques.

16 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

