

[54] **PRETREATMENT/AGGLOMERATION AS A VEHICLE FOR REFRACTORY ORE TREATMENT**

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[58] Field of Search ..... **75/118 R, 105, 3, 111, 75/114, 101 R; 423/29, 31, 38**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An agglomerative heap leaching method for recovering gold, silver or other metals from low grade refractory ores. Hypochlorite compounds are incorporated directly into the ore agglomerates as they are formed. This provides ample time and opportunity for the hypochlorite to destroy, modify or passivate refractory components of the ore thereby improving metal recovery in the subsequent cyanide leaching step.

**20 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**

