

## ABSTRACT

### FILTRATION PROCESS

5 A slurry is subjected to a filtration and washing process in  
order to separate the liquor from the solids. The filtration and  
washing process is carried out in a housing (101) enclosing an inert  
gaseous atmosphere which also passes through the filter cake and may  
be recycled, after treatment, to remove contaminants therefrom. To  
prevent recontamination of the filter cake as a result of the  
10 recycled gas entraining contaminant vapours within the housing (101),  
the gas is introduced into the housing (101) at a downstream location  
(152a, 166) relative to the direction of travel of the filter cake on  
a movable filter medium (100) and in such a way as to develop a  
contaminant-concentration gradient whereby the cleanest cake is  
15 contacted by gas having the lowest contaminant level.

cf 2)