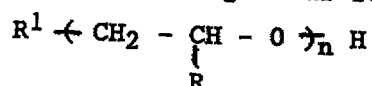


Abstract
DRILLING FLUID

A water based drilling fluid comprises:

- (a) an aqueous medium,
- (b) a polyalkylene glycol of general formula:



wherein R is H or CH₃, R¹ is H or an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is a number in the range 4 to 200, and

- (c) a potassium salt.

In the case of tetra- and higher molecular weight polyalkylene glycols, there is a synergistic clay-stablising effect between these compounds and the potassium salt.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

