



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C02F 1/52, 1/54	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/17112 (43) International Publication Date: 30 March 2000 (30.03.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/14750 (22) International Filing Date: 29 June 1999 (29.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/156,820 18 September 1998 (18.09.98) US (71) Applicant: NALCO CHEMICAL COMPANY [US/US]; One Nalco Center, Naperville, IL 60653-1198 (US). (72) Inventors: SOMMESE, Anthony, G.; 3008 Waters Edge Circle, Aurora, IL 60504 (US). SHAH, Jitendra; 833 Cardiff Road, Naperville, IL 60565 (US). (74) Agent: KEEFER, Timothy, J.; Ladas & Parry, 224 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD OF DEWATERING DIFFICULT SLUDGES (57) Abstract The present invention provides a new method for dewatering difficult sludges, such as autothermal thermophilic aerobic digestion sludges. The method incorporates a three-component treatment system. Initially, the difficult sludge is dosed with an inorganic coagulant and then the resulting sludge - inorganic mixture is dosed with a microparticle component. Lastly, the resulting mixture is dosed with a high molecular weight flocculant.		