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(54) Title: PROBES AND PRIMERS FOR THE DETECTION OF POLYPHOSPHATE ACCUMULATING ORGANISMS IN WASTEWATER

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the identification of polyphosphate accumulating organisms that are capable of biologically removing phosphorus from wastewater. Specifically, the invention provides oligonucleotide probes or primers for detecting a polyphosphate accumulating organism in a sample. These oligonucleotides have a sequence of at least 12 nucleotides that is unique to 16S rDNA of polyphosphate accumulating organisms. The invention further provides methods for detecting polyphosphate accumulating organisms.