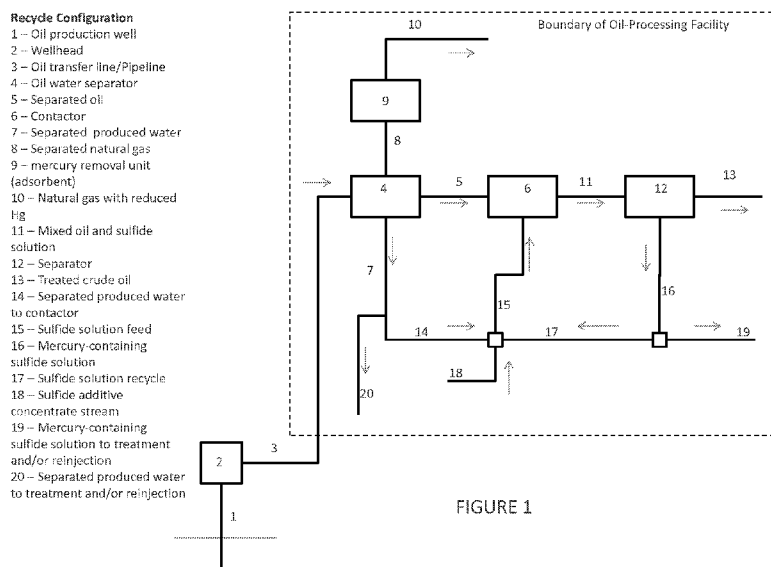




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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** PROCESS, METHOD, AND SYSTEM FOR REMOVING MERCURY FROM FLUIDS

(57) **Abstract:** Trace amount levels of non-volatile mercury in crude oil are reduced by contacting the crude oil with a water stream containing at least a monatomic water-soluble sulfur species such as sulfides and hydrosulfides. The non-volatile mercury is extracted into the water phase forming a mercury rich wastewater, yielding a treated crude oil having at less than 50% of the original non-volatile mercury level. The wastewater can be disposed or recycled by injection into a reservoir. In one embodiment, the water stream consists essentially of produced water.

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

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