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(54) Title: **APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR SEPARATING SOLIDS FROM FLOWING LIQUIDS OR GASES**

(57) Abstract

The present invention generally provides an apparatus for separating solid or particulate matter from a flowing liquid or gas, the apparatus including: a separation panel positioned in the path of flow of the liquid or gas, the separation panel including a plurality of openings, wherein the openings are of a predetermined size such that only solid or particulate matter smaller than that size is able to pass through the openings, and wherein further, the configuration and arrangement of the openings on the separation panel is such that in use of the apparatus, solid or particulate matter larger than the predetermined size is substantially prevented from adhering to or obstructing the separation panel. The invention also provides a method for separating solid or particulate matter from a flowing liquid or gas, the method including the steps of: positioning a separation apparatus in the path of flow of the liquid or gas; and providing the separation apparatus with a separation panel having a plurality of openings therethrough, wherein the openings are of a predetermined size such that only

solid or particulate matter smaller than that size is able to pass through the openings, and wherein further, the configuration and arrangement of the openings on the separation panel is such that in use of the apparatus, solid or particulate matter larger than the predetermined size is substantially prevented from adhering to, or obstructing the separation panel.

