

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
26 September 2024 (26.09.2024)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2024/194272 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C22B 7/00 (2006.01) C22B 23/02 (2006.01)
C22B 11/00 (2006.01) C22B 3/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2024/057191

(22) International Filing Date:

18 March 2024 (18.03.2024)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

63/491,159 20 March 2023 (20.03.2023) US
2305263.2 11 April 2023 (11.04.2023) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every

kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG,
KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY,
MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA,
NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO,
RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS,
ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every

kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, CV,
GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST,
SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ,

(54) Title: PROCESS

(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a leaching composition for extracting cobalt from a waste material, wherein the composition comprises at least one chemically active organic lixiviant comprising at least one weakly acidic hydroxyl group, the organic lixiviant being effective to alter the oxidation state of cobalt in the waste material and generate a soluble cobalt (II) ionic species comprising an anion derived from the organic lixiviant.

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