[0027] WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for chemical dissolution of cadavers, comprising:

preparing an ethanolic potassium hydroxide solution having a chosen quantity of potassium hydroxide in ethanol or a mixture of potassium hydroxide, water, and ethanol;

contacting the cadaver with the ethanolic potassium hydroxide solution;

heating the cadaver and the ethanolic potassium hydroxide solution to a desired temperature at atmospheric pressure; and

determining when the dissolution of said cadaver is completed, whereby a dissolution solution having a pH is formed.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of reacting the dissolution solution with nitric acid to form a solution having lower pH than the pH of the dissolution solution.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the pH of the dissolution solution is between about 5 and about 11.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of separating crystalline material from the dissolution solution.

5. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of applying the dissolution solution to the earth.

8. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of contacting the pH-lowered solution with hydrogen peroxide.

7. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of bringing the pH of the dissolution solution to about 7, and applying the resulting solution to the earth as a fertilizer.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of reacting the dissolution solution with carbonic acid to form a solution having lower pH than the pH of the dissolution solution.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the pH of the dissolution solution is between about 5 and about 11.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of contacting the pH-lowered dissolution solution with hydrogen peroxide.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of bringing the pH of the dissolution solution to about 7, and applying the resulting solution to the earth as a fertilizer.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of contacting the dissolution solution with hydrogen peroxide.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sonicating the solution to improve contact of the ethanolic potassium hydroxide solution with said cadaver.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of placing said cadaver and the ethanolic potassium hydroxide solution in a vessel, and rocking the vessel to improve contact of the ethanolic potassium hydroxide solution with said cadaver.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of sonicating the solution in the vessel to improve contact of the solution with said cadaver.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of heating the vessel.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said step of heating the vessel is achieved using at least one heater external to the vessel.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining when dissolution of said cadaver is completed is performed by visual observation.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of dissolving bones present in said cadaver by further reaction beyond when the dissolution of said cadaver is completed using a solution of a chosen quantity of potassium hydroxide in ethanol or potassium hydroxide in an ethanol/water mixture.

20. A method for chemical dissolution of cadavers, comprising;

preparing an ethanolic hydroxide solution having a chosen quantity of an alkali hydroxide in ethanol or in a mixture of alkali hydroxide, water, and ethanol;

contacting the cadaver with the alkali hydroxide solution;

heating the cadaver and the alkali hydroxide solution to a desired temperature at atmospheric pressure; and

determining when the dissolution of said cadaver is completed, whereby a dissolution solution having a pH is formed.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the alkali hydroxide is selected from potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, and a mixture of potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the alkali hydroxide comprises sodium hydroxide and the water comprises salt water or sea water.

23. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of reacting the dissolution solution with nitric acid or hydrochloric acid to form a solution having lower pH than the pH of the dissolution solution.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the pH of the dissolution solution is between about 5 and about 11.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of disposing the dissolution solution in the ocean.