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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **U.S. FILTER WASTEWATER GROUP, INC.** [US/US]; 181 Thorn Hill Road, Warrendale, PA 15086 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **JOHNSON, Warren, Thomas** [AU/AU]; 87 Avoca Road, Grose Wold, NSW 2753 (AU). **BECK, Thomas, William** [AU/AU]; 121 Keda Circuit, North Richmond, NSW 2756 (AU). **YEO, Rebecca** [AU/CN]; Unit 1609, Building 7, Dang Dai Wan Guo Cheng, No. 1 Xiangheyuan Road, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100028 (CN).

(74) Agent: **SHELSTON IP**; 60 Margaret Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 (AU).

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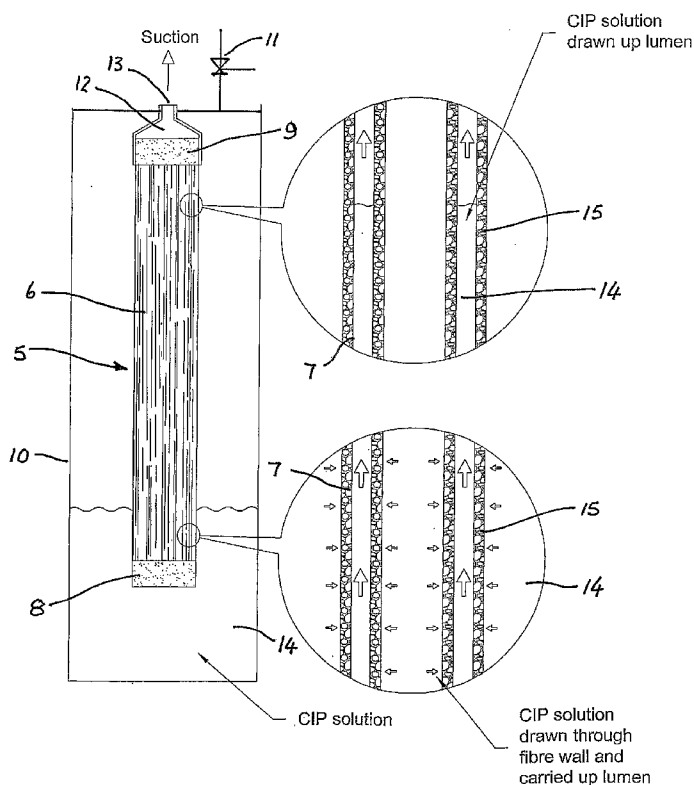
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(54) Title: CLEANING IN MEMBRANE FILTRATION SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A method of cleaning permeable, hollow membranes (6) in an arrangement of the type wherein a pressure differential is applied across the walls (15) of the permeable, hollow membranes (6) immersed in a liquid suspension, the liquid suspension being applied to the outer surface of the porous hollow membranes (6) to induce and sustain filtration through the membrane walls (15) wherein some of the liquid suspension passes through the walls (15) of the membranes (6) to be drawn off as clarified liquid or permeate from the hollow membrane lumens (7), and at least some of the solids are retained on or in the hollow membranes (6) or otherwise as suspended solids within the liquid surrounding the membranes (6). The method of cleaning comprises the steps of applying a cleaning solution (14) to one side of the membrane wall (15); applying a pressure differential across the membrane wall (15) to cause flow of the cleaning solution (14) through the wall (15) from the one side of the membrane wall (15) to the other side of the membrane wall (15) and applying a reverse pressure differential across the membrane wall (15) to cause flow of the cleaning solution (14) through the wall (15) from the other side of the membrane wall (15) back to the one side of the membrane wall (15). A method of determining the amount of chemical cleaning solution required

is also disclosed.



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