

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11) 1 527 692 (9)

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(21) Application No. 2164/77 (22) Filed 19 Jan. 1977

(44) Complete Specification published 4 Oct. 1978

(51) INT CL² B03C 5/00//C02B 1/82; H02H 7/12, 9/02

(52) Index at acceptance

H2H 2B3

C7B 102 343 520 607 DR

H2K 209 452 463 46Y 532 53Y 600 625 62Y 650 700

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(54) ELECTROSTATIC WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

(71) We, PROGRESSIVE EQUIPMENT CORP., A Corporation of the State of Pennsylvania, United States of America, of 413 East 9th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to an electrostatic water treatment system.

According to this invention there is provided an electrostatic water treatment system having an insulated electrode and a ground electrode and adapted to receive water to be treated between the electrodes so the electrodes form a capacitance through which water to be treated flows, said insulated electrode having an insulating coating for insulating it from the water, said ground electrode being adapted to be in contact with the water, a power supply having a positive terminal connected to said insulated electrode for charging said insulated electrode to a high positive d.c. voltage relative to said ground electrode, and means for alternately turning the power supply on when the voltage drops to a lower limit and off when the voltage rises to an upper limit, and thereby providing a small alternating voltage superimposed on said d.c. voltage when said d.c. voltage between said insulated and ground electrodes is adequate to treat the water.

In the drawing, the single figure is a circuit diagram of the system.

In the electrostatic treatment of water an electrode 1 having an insulating coating 2 is positively charged by a high d.c. voltage (e.g. 1,000 to 12,000 volts). The electrode is at the center of an externally grounded shell 3 and the water to be treated enters through fitting 4 and leaves through fitting 5. While the annular system of water flows past the electrode, the positive charge on the electrode attracts free electrons from the water and minerals and causes electron

collisions with mineral and biological material in the water. As a result, the mineral and biological material settle out and may be periodically flushed down the drain.

The high voltage power supply for the electrode 1 consists of a d.c. multiplier 6 fed by a transistor oscillator 7 and a constant voltage d.c. power supply 8. When the unit is first turned on the base 9 of the transistor 10 is above ground level and the transistor 10 is turned on allowing the high voltage output of the multiplier 6 to charge the electrode 1. The capacitance between the electrode 1 and the shell 3 is represented by dotted line capacitor 11 and the voltage to which the capacitor is charged is divided by resistors 12 and 13 to the level suited to operational amplifier 14 which has the property of producing an output at terminal 15 proportional to the difference between the input voltage at the terminals 16 and 17. The voltage at terminal 16 is obtained from the center terminal 18 of voltage divider 12, 13 and the slider 19 of the potentiometer 20 connected between output terminal 15 and circuit ground. The voltage at terminal 17 is a constant reference voltage obtained from the slider 21 of a potentiometer 22 connected from the power supply 8 to circuit ground. When the voltage at terminal 16 exceeds the voltage at terminal 17, the voltage output terminal 15 rises from system ground to the voltage of power supply 8. This turns transistor 23 on and consequently turns transistor 10 and multiplier 6 off. The voltage between electrode 1 and shell 3 (capacitor 11) now discharges through resistors 12, 13, potentiometer 20 and resistor 24 connected between the external ground 25 and the system ground. When the reference voltage at terminal 17 becomes greater than the voltage at terminal 16, transistor 23 is turned off, turning transistor 10 on and starting the cycle over again. This on-off action saves power while maintaining adequate voltage on electrodes 1 for performing the desired water treatment and

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also produces a small alternating voltage superimposed upon the d.c. voltage output of multiplier 6.

Under normal operation, the current flow within the power supply is very small. However, if the insulation 2 breaks down, there will be a direct short between the electrode 1 and the shell 3 which reduces the voltage and prevents treatment. Over current protection is provided by operational amplifier 26 having an input terminal 27 connected to receive the voltage across resistor 24, another input terminal 28 connected to the center tap 29 of a voltage divider connected across the power supply 8 and an output terminal 30 connected to the base of transistor 23. Excessive current causes the voltage at terminal 27 to exceed the voltage at terminal 28 causing the voltage at output terminal 30 to rise from its normal or no overload value of system ground to supply voltage 8, turning on transistor 23 and shutting off the high voltage supply 6. The current limiting circuit is designed to override the voltage regulating circuit of amplifier 14.

The possibility of a short circuit between electrode 1 and shell 3 is constantly checked by operational amplifier 31, diode 32, resistor 33, capacitor 34, transistor 35, and lamp 36. The section of the circuit works as follows. Because of the action of the voltage regulator circuit 12-23 there is a small AC voltage produced across resistor 24 by the charging and discharging of capacitor 11. This voltage is not present when there is a short circuit between electrode 1 and shell 3.

This small voltage because it is alternating is varying both above and below the reference point of operational amplifier 31. The voltage of input terminal 37 is compared with the voltage at input terminal 38. The output of amplifier 31 accordingly is an alternating voltage in step with the voltage between terminals 37, 38. Capacitor 34 is charged through resistor 33 and is discharged through diode 32. As long as there is an AC voltage between 37, 38 and the time constant of 33, 34 is long enough, diode 32 discharges the capacitor 34 before resistor 33 can charge it sufficiently to turn on transistor 35 and lamp 36. If for any reason the AC voltage between 37, 38 is not present, the capacitor 34 is charged by resistor 33 and the transistor 35 and lamp 36 are turned on. The lighting of lamp 36 indicates the absence of an adequate voltage on electrode 1 for performing the desired water treatment.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An electrostatic water treatment

system having an insulated electrode and a ground electrode and adapted to receive water to be treated between the electrodes so the electrodes form a capacitance through which the water to be treated flows, said insulated electrode having an insulating coating for insulating it from the water, said ground electrode being adapted to be in contact with the water, a power supply having a positive terminal connected to said insulated electrode for charging said insulated electrode to a high positive d.c. voltage relative to said ground electrode, and means for alternately turning the power supply on when the voltage drops to a lower limit and off when the voltage rises to an upper limit and thereby providing a small alternating voltage superimposed on said d.c. voltage when said d.c. voltage between said insulated and ground electrodes is adequate to treat the water.

2. The system of claim 1 in which the negative terminal of said power supply is a circuit ground terminal which is connected by a resistor to said ground electrode.

3. The system of claim 2 in which said alternating voltage appears across said resistor and in which said alternating voltage further provides means for indicating whether or not the insulated electrode has adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment.

4. The system of claim 3 in which the means for indicating whether or not the system is provided with adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment includes a transistor turned on by a predetermined voltage to which a capacitor is charged and an operational amplifier utilizing said alternating voltage for periodically discharging said capacitor.

5. The system of claim 2 having means responsive to a rise in voltage across said resistor for shutting off the said power and said means for alternately turning the power on and off.

6. The system of claim 5 having means responsive to the absence of said small alternating voltage for indicating the absence of adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment.

7. The system of claim 2 in which said alternating voltage further provides means for indicating whether or not the system is drawing current above a predetermined upper limit.

8. The system of claim 1 in which said alternating voltage further provides means for indicating whether or not the insulated electrode has adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment.

9. The system of claim 1 in which means responsive to the flow of current between said electrodes greater than a predeter-



also produces a small alternating voltage superimposed upon the d.c. voltage output of multiplier 6.

Under normal operation, the current flow within the power supply is very small. However, if the insulation 2 breaks down, there will be a direct short between the electrode 1 and the shell 3 which reduces the voltage and prevents treatment. Over current protection is provided by operational amplifier 26 having an input terminal 27 connected to receive the voltage across resistor 24, another input terminal 28 connected to the center tap 29 of a voltage divider connected across the power supply 8 and an output terminal 30 connected to the base of transistor 23. Excessive current causes the voltage at terminal 27 to exceed the voltage at terminal 28 causing the voltage at output terminal 30 to rise from its normal or no overload value of system ground to supply voltage 8, turning on transistor 23 and shutting off the high voltage supply 6. The current limiting circuit is designed to override the voltage regulating circuit of amplifier 14.

The possibility of a short circuit between electrode 1 and shell 3 is constantly checked by operational amplifier 31, diode 32, resistor 33, capacitor 34, transistor 35, and lamp 36. The section of the circuit works as follows. Because of the action of the voltage regulator circuit 12-23 there is a small AC voltage produced across resistor 24 by the charging and discharging of capacitor 11. This voltage is not present when there is a short circuit between electrode 1 and shell 3.

This small voltage because it is alternating is varying both above and below the reference point of operational amplifier 31. The voltage of input terminal 37 is compared with the voltage at input terminal 38. The output of amplifier 31 accordingly is an alternating voltage in step with the voltage between terminals 37, 38. Capacitor 34 is charged through resistor 33 and is discharged through diode 32. As long as there is an AC voltage between 37, 38 and the time constant of 33, 34 is long enough, diode 32 discharges the capacitor 34 before resistor 33 can charge it sufficiently to turn on transistor 35 and lamp 36. If for any reason the AC voltage between 37, 38 is not present, the capacitor 34 is charged by resistor 33 and the transistor 35 and lamp 36 are turned on. The lighting of lamp 36 indicates the absence of an adequate voltage on electrode 1 for performing the desired water treatment.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An electrostatic water treatment

system having an insulated electrode and a ground electrode and adapted to receive water to be treated between the electrodes so the electrodes form a capacitance through which the water to be treated flows, said insulated electrode having an insulating coating for insulating it from the water, said ground electrode being adapted to be in contact with the water, a power supply having a positive terminal connected to said insulated electrode for charging said insulated electrode to a high positive d.c. voltage relative to said ground electrode, and means for alternately turning the power supply on when the voltage drops to a lower limit and off when the voltage rises to an upper limit and thereby providing a small alternating voltage superimposed on said d.c. voltage when said d.c. voltage between said insulated and ground electrodes is adequate to treat the water.

2. The system of claim 1 in which the negative terminal of said power supply is a circuit ground terminal which is connected by a resistor to said ground electrode.

3. The system of claim 2 in which said alternating voltage appears across said resistor and in which said alternating voltage further provides means for indicating whether or not the insulated electrode has adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment.

4. The system of claim 3 in which the means for indicating whether or not the system is provided with adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment includes a transistor turned on by a predetermined voltage to which a capacitor is charged and an operational amplifier utilizing said alternating voltage for periodically discharging said capacitor.

5. The system of claim 2 having means responsive to a rise in voltage across said resistor for shutting off the said power and said means for alternately turning the power on and off.

6. The system of claim 5 having means responsive to the absence of said small alternating voltage for indicating the absence of adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment.

7. The system of claim 2 in which said alternating voltage further provides means for indicating whether or not the system is drawing current above a predetermined upper limit.

8. The system of claim 1 in which said alternating voltage further provides means for indicating whether or not the insulated electrode has adequate voltage for performing the desired water treatment.

9. The system of claim 1 in which means responsive to the flow of current between said electrodes greater than a predeter-



mined upper limit turns off the power supply and overrides the means for turning the power on and off.

- 5 10. The system of claim 1 in which said alternating voltage further provides means for indicating whether or not the system is drawing current above a predetermined upper limit.

- 10 11. An electrostatic water treatment system having an insulated electrode and a ground electrode and adapted to receive water to be treated between the electrodes so the electrodes form a capacitance through which the water being treated
15 flows, said insulated electrode having an insulating coating for insulating it from the water, said ground electrode being adapted to be in contact with the water, a power supply having a positive terminal connected
20 to said insulated electrode for charging said

insulated electrode to a high positive d.c. voltage relative to said ground electrode and means for indicating whether or not the voltage present between the insulated and ground electrodes is adequate to treat the water.

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12. The system of claim 11 having in addition means for shutting off the power supply whenever the insulating coating breaks down and permits the flow of current greater than a predetermined upper limit from the insulated electrode through the water to the ground electrode.

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13. An electrostatic water treatment system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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