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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*):
SIEMENS WATER TECHNOLOGIES CORP.
[US/US]; 10 Technology Drive, Lowell, Massachusetts 01851 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **JOHNSON, Warren, Thomas** [AU/AU]; 87 Avoca Road, Grose Wold, NSW 2753 (AU).

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

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(54) Title: REDUCED BACKWASH VOLUME PROCESS

(57) Abstract: A method of backwashing a membrane filtration module, where the module includes one or more membranes located in a feed-containing vessel. The membranes having a permeable wall which is subjected to a filtration operation wherein feed liquid containing contaminant matter is applied to one side of the membrane wall and filtrate is withdrawn from the other side of the membrane wall. The method includes the steps of suspending the filtration operation; aerating the membrane surface with gas bubbles to dislodge fouling materials therefrom; recommencing the filtration operation while suspending the flow of feed liquid to the feed-containing vessel for a predetermined period; again suspending the filtration operation; performing a liquid backwash of the membrane wall to dislodge fouling materials therefrom; removing at least some of the liquid containing the dislodged contaminant matter from the feed-containing vessel; and then recommencing the filtration operation.



WO 2007/065229 A1