THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION FOR WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A desanding system for receiving a gas stream containing entrained liquid and particulates comprising:

a vessel ~~which is~~ elongated along a longitudinal axis and ~~that is~~ having a fluid inlet adjacent a first end of the vessel and a fluid outlet spaced along the longitudinal axis from the fluid inlet towards a second end of the vessel, said vessel being inclined from a horizontal at a non-zero inclination angle~~, the vessel further having a~~ at all times during operation such that the fluid outlet is lower than the fluid inlet, the fluid inlet ~~adjacent an upper end of the vessel for~~ discharging the gas stream into the vessel at an inlet velocity, the gas stream travelling down the inclined vessel to ~~a fluid~~ the fluid outlet ~~spaced along the longitudinal axis from, and lower than, the fluid inlet~~, the vessel having:

a gas/liquid interface formed at the fluid outlet having a belly storage portion formed therebelow and a freeboard portion formed adjacent an upper portion of the vessel above the interface, the freeboard portion having a freeboard cross-sectional area which diminishes along the inclined vessel from the fluid inlet to the fluid outlet; and ~~and wherein a freeboard velocity adjacent the fluid inlet is less than the inlet velocity, and wherein~~

the freeboard portion at the fluid inlet causing the gas stream to have a freeboard velocity adjacent the fluid inlet which is less than the velocity of the fluid in the inlet, wherein

the freeboard velocity ~~being~~ is such that the entrained liquids and particulates fall out of the gas stream and collect in the belly storage portion, and

wherein a desanded gas/liquid stream flows out of the freeboard portion and out the fluid outlet, being free of a substantial portion of the particulates, and particulates accumulate in the belly portion for flowing downvessel towards said second end.

2. The desanding system of claim 1 wherein the fluid inlet has a discharge end, the discharge end oriented for discharging the gas stream into the freeboard portion.

3. The desanding system of claim 2 wherein the discharge end of the fluid inlet directs the gas stream into the freeboard portion and parallel to the longitudinal axis.

4. The desanding system of ~~claim~~ any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the fluid inlet further comprises a replaceable nozzle having a discharge end oriented for discharging the gas stream into the freeboard portion.

5. The desanding system of claim 4 wherein the ~~repleaceable~~ replaceable nozzle is connected to the fluid inlet at a flange.

6. The desanding system of claim 1 wherein the gas stream emanates from a wellhead and the fluid inlet further comprises:

a discharge end for directing the gas stream into the freeboard portion and parallel to the longitudinal axis; and

a receiving end for receiving the gas stream and orthogonal to the wellhead.

7. The desanding system of claim 1 further comprising:

a conduit for conducting a fluid stream containing entrained particulates from a wellhead, the conduit having a desander end; and

wherein the fluid inlet further comprises a discharge end for directing the fluid stream into the freeboard portion and oriented parallel to the longitudinal axis, and a receiving end for receiving the gas stream and oriented orthogonal to the desander end.

8. The desanding system of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the inclination angle is variable for varying fluid stream conditions.

9. The desanding system of any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said gas/liquid interface is formed during operation, the gas/liquid interface extending horizontally from about the fluid outlet.

10. The desanding system of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein said the cross-section area of the freeboard portion is at its greatest adjacent the fluid inlet.

11. The desanding system of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein said inclination angle is between about 2 degrees and about 20 degrees.

12. The desanding system of any one of claims 1 to 11 further comprising: an access closure at said second end for removal of accumulated particulates.

13. The desanding system of any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein said vessel has a smaller diameter downstream of the fluid outlet than the diameter of other portion of the vessel.

14. The desanding system of claim 13 wherein second end of the vessel is an eccentric end.

~~9.~~15. A method for desanding a fluid stream emanating from a wellhead, the fluid stream containing gas, entrained liquid and particulates, the method comprising:

providing an elongated vessel having a longitudinal axis, a fluid inlet adjacent ~~an first~~ a first end of the vessel and a fluid outlet spaced along the longitudinal

axis from the fluid ~~inlet~~ inlet;

inclining the vessel at angle from horizontal at a non-zero inclination angle so that the fluid outlet is lower ~~that~~ than the fluid inlet for forming a freeboard above the fluid outlet;

discharging the fluid stream from the fluid inlet, into the inclined vessel and substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis for

establishing a liquid interface in a belly portion of the vessel, the belly portion being formed below the fluid outlet, and

directing the liquid and particulates along a trajectory in the freeboard portion of the vessel to intercept a substantial portion of the particulates at the liquid interface for storage in the belly portion; and

recovering a desanded gas stream at the fluid outlet which is substantially free of particulates.

~~10.~~16. The method of claim ~~9~~ 15 further comprising:

varying the liquid interface.

~~11.~~17. The method of claim ~~10~~ 16 further comprising:

varying the inclination angle for varying the liquid interface.

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising:

accumulating particulates in said belly portion; and

periodically removing accumulated particulates.