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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR RECOVERING ONIUM HYDROXIDES FROM SOLUTIONS CONTAINING ONIUM COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: In one embodiment the present invention is a process for recovering an onium hydroxide from a cation exchange material having onium cations adsorbed thereto which comprises (A) contacting said cation exchange material with an aqueous solution of a base selected from alkali metal hydroxides and ammonium hydroxide to form an onium hydroxide, and (B) recovering an aqueous solution of the onium hydroxide. In another embodiment, the present invention relates to a process for recovering an onium hydroxide from a solution containing an onium compound such as an onium hydroxide and/or onium salt, including contacting the solution with a cation exchange material so that at least a portion of onium cations from the onium compound are adsorbed by the cation exchange material; contacting the cation exchange material having the onium cations adsorbed thereto with an aqueous solution of an inorganic base to form an onium hydroxide; and recovering the onium hydroxide solution. The onium hydroxides that can be recovered in this manner include quaternary ammonium hydroxides, quaternary phosphonium hydroxides, and tertiary sulfonium hydroxides.



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