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BAKER HUGHES INCORPORATED [US/US]; 3900 Essex Lane, Suite 1200, Houston, TX 77027 (US).

(72) Inventors: HALLIDAY, William, S.; 12923 Lemur, Cypress, TX 77429 (US). SCHWERTNER, David; 46 Eagle Court, The Woodlands, TX 77380 (US). STRICKLAND, Dwight, S.; 2007 Sunshine Point Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345 (US).

(74) Agents: WELBORN, Brian, S. et al.; Baker Hughes Incorporated, 2001 Rankin Road, Houston, TX 77073 (US).

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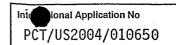
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DRILLING FLUIDS COMPRISING SIZED GRAPHITE PARTICLES

(57) Abstract: Drilling fluid systems, graphite particle mixtures, and methods for use thereof including: (a) drilling fluid systems having effective rheology and lubricity properties comprising a suspension of graphite particles having a particle size distribution sufficient to permit greater than 65 wt.% of the graphite particles to pass through a shaker screen having a mesh size of about 80 or less; and (b) spotting fluids having effective rheology comprising graphite particles having an average particle size of 120 mesh or



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C09K7/02

CORRECTED VERSION According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C09K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category 9 Χ WO 02/22759 A (THUSLICK INC) 1-23, 21 March 2002 (2002-03-21) 39 - 47page 2 - page 5, line 10 24-38, Α 48-52 US 5 826 669 A (DERWIN DAVID J ET AL) 1-23. χ 27 October 1998 (1998-10-27) column 5, line 48 - line 51 39-47 24-38, 48-52 column 1 - column 3 US 5 401 719 A (DEBEER JOHANNES M) 28 March 1995 (1995-03-28) Х 1-23. 39 - 47column 2, line 15 - column 3, line 60 24-38. Α 48-52 US 2003/132000 A1 (SHAARPOUR MANO) 1 - 52P,A 17 July 2003 (2003-07-17) the whole document Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report **1** 5. 12. **2004**

Authorized officer

Zimpfer, E

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see additional sheet
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. X As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

- 1. claims: 1-23,39-47
 - Independant claim 1 relates to a drilling fluid system comprising a suspension of graphite particles having a particle size distribution sufficient to permit greater than 65 wt% of the graphite particles to pass through a shaker screen having a mesh size of about 80 or less.
 Independant claim 16 relates to a graphite particle mixture comprising 82wt% or more particles having a particle size of 60 mesh or less.
- 2. claims: 24-38, 48-52
 - Independant claim 24 claims a spotting fluid comprising graphite particles having an average particle size of 120 mesh or greater.
 - Independant claim 34 relates to a graphite particle mixture comprising graphite particles having an average particle size of 120 mesh or greater.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

nformation on patent family members

Interplonal Application No PCT/US2004/010650

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