

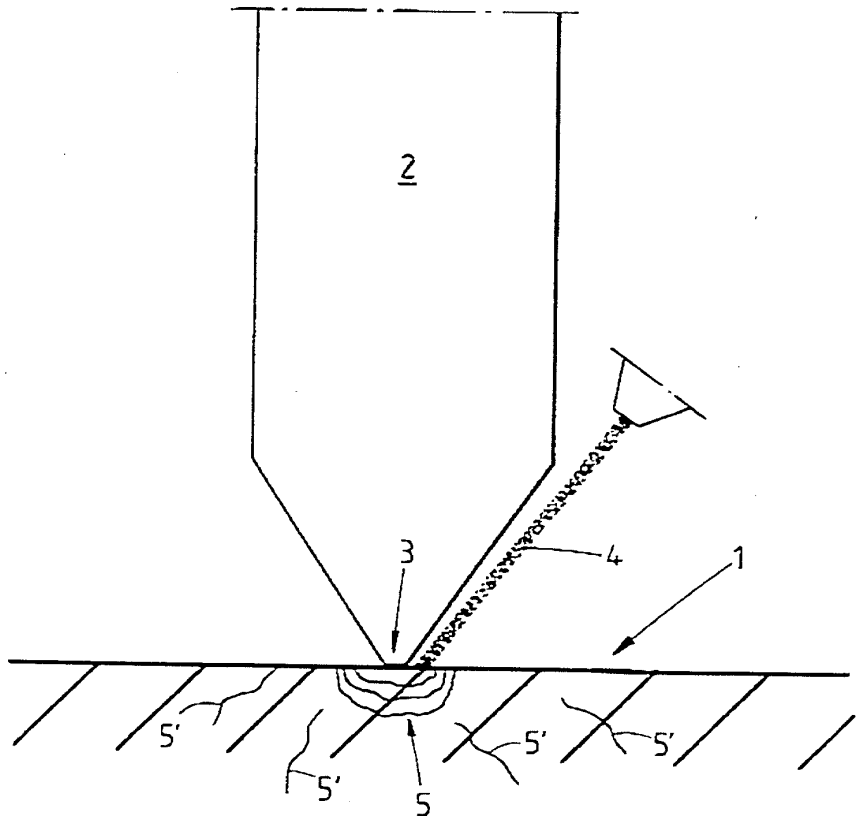


[12] Patent

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[21] Application No.: GCC/P/1999/81 [22] Filing Date: 13/02/1999 [30] Priority: [31] Priority No. [32] Priority date [33] State 09800111 13/02/1998 BE [72] Inventor: Stefaan Vandycke [73] Owner: Dredging International N.V., Scheldedijk 30, 2070 Zwijndrecht, Belgium [74] Agent: Suleiman Ibrahim Al-Ammar	[51] Int.Cl. ⁷ : E02F 3/92 [56] Cited Documents: - US 4573743 A (GRATHOFF) 04 March 1986 - US 3729137 A (COBB et al.) 24 April 1973 - WO 92/07146 A1 (COAL RECOVERIES) 30 April 1992 - DE 3817213 C1 (PAUTZ) 12 January 1989

[54] METHOD FOR WORKING THROUGH GROUND AND ROCK LAYERS WITH DREDGERS OR EXCAVATORS AND APPARATUSES OPERATING ACCORDING TO THIS METHOD

[57] Abstract: The invention relates to a method for working through ground layers with dredgers or excavators, in which water jets (4) are injected in the area where a mechanical cutting or excavating component (2) is active at a pressure which is sufficiently high to cut open the ground layers in the vicinity of the cutting or excavating component (2) or cause them to fluidize. When the ground layers contain rock-like materials or consist of rock-like materials, the jets (4) also function to immediately remove broken-off materials from the location where the mechanical cutting or excavating component (2) is active and enhances the hydraulic fracturing in the non-crushed material in the immediate vicinity of the crushed material.



No. of claims: 24

No. of figures: 8