



01-24-2002



101957275

FORM PTO-1595 (Rev. 6-93)

U.S. Department of Commerce

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Patent and Trademark Office

To the Honorable Commissioner for Patents: Please record the attached original document or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies): 1-11-02
Arvind D. Patel, Emanuel Stamatakis, Eric Davis
Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):
Name: M-I, L.L.C.
1201 Louisiana
Houston, TX 77072
Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other

Execution Date: 3 January 2002

4. Application number(s) or registration number(s):
If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:

A. Patent Application No.(s):

09/884,013

B. Patent No.(s):

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
Name: Carter J. White
Howrey Simon Arnold & White, LLP
750 Bering Drive
City: Houston State: Texas Zip: 77057-2198

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1
7. Total fee (37 C.F.R. 3.41)----- \$ 40.00
 Enclosed Form 2038
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account
if check insufficient or inadvertently omitted
8. Deposit account number: 01-2508/MIDR:718
(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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9. Statement and signature.
To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Carter J. White

11 Jan 2002

Name of Person Signing, Reg. No. 41,374

Signature

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and documents: 4

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:

01/18/2002 MGEDREN1 00000066 09884013

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Commissioner for Patents

Box Assignment

Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

NUMBER EL 830939782 US

DATE OF DEPOSIT Jan. 11, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Barbi Sofia
Signature

ASSIGNMENT

FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, the receipt, sufficiency and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, do hereby:

SELL, ASSIGN AND TRANSFER to M-I L.L.C. (the "Assignee"), a corporation of Delaware, having a place of business at 1201 Louisiana, Houston, Texas 77072, the entire right, title and interest for the United States and all foreign countries in and to any and all improvements which are disclosed in the application for United States Letters Patent, Serial No. **09/884,013** which has been filed on **June 18, 2001** and is entitled "**Shale Hydration Inhibition Agent and Method of Use**", such application and all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue and all other applications for patent which have been or shall be filed in the United States and all foreign countries on any of such improvements; all original and reissued patents which have been or shall be issued in the United States and all foreign countries on such improvements; and specifically including the right to file foreign applications under the provisions of any convention or treaty and claim priority based on such application in the United States;

AUTHORIZE AND REQUEST the issuing authority to issue any and all United States and foreign patents granted on such improvements to the Assignee;

WARRANT AND COVENANT that no assignment, grant, mortgage, license or other agreement affecting the rights and property herein conveyed has been or will be made to others by the undersigned, and that the full right to convey the same as herein expressed is possessed by the undersigned;

COVENANT, when requested and at the expense of the Assignee, to carry out in good faith the intent and purpose of this assignment, the undersigned will execute all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue, and all other patent applications on any and all such improvements; execute all rightful oaths, declarations, assignments, powers of attorney and other papers; communicate to the Assignee all facts known to the undersigned relating to such improvements and the history thereof; and generally do everything possible which the Assignee shall consider desirable for vesting title to such improvements in the Assignee, and for securing, maintaining and enforcing proper patent protection for such improvements;

TO BE BINDING on the heirs, assigns, representatives and successors of the undersigned and extend to the successors, assigns and nominees of the Assignee.

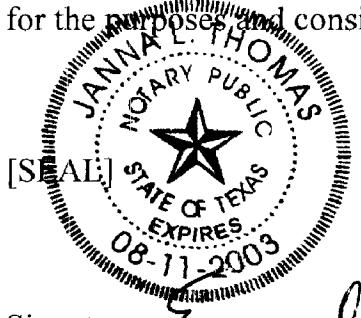
Signature: Arvind D. Patel
Name: Arvind D. Patel

Date: Jan 3, 2002

COUNTY OF Harris)
STATE OF Texas) ss.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 3 day of January, 2002, personally appeared Arvind D. Patel, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Janna L. Thomas
Notary or Consular Officer



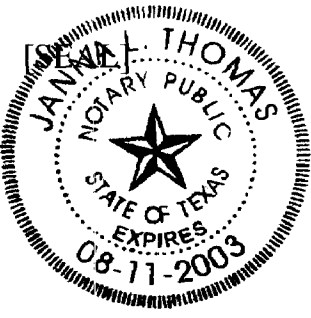
Signature: Emanuel Stamatakis
Name: Emanuel Stamatakis

Date: January 3, 2002

COUNTY OF Harris)
STATE OF Texas) ss.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 3 day of January, 2002, personally appeared Emanuel Stamatakis, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Janna L. Thomas
Notary or Consular Officer



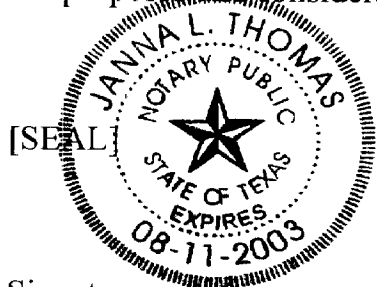
Signature: Eric Davis
Name: Eric Davis

Date: 1/3/02

COUNTY OF Harris)
STATE OF Texas) ss.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 3 day of January, 2002, personally appeared Eric Davis, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Janna J. Thomas
Notary or Consular Officer



Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____

COUNTY OF _____)
STATE OF _____) ss.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this ____ day of _____, 20____, personally appeared _____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Notary or Consular Officer

[SEAL]

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP
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