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(54) **SETTLING VESSEL FOR EXTRACTING  
CRUDE OIL FROM TAR SANDS**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Process and apparatus for the continuous separation of crude  
oil from tar sands include using a hydrocarbon diluent and an  
aqueous solution in one or more settling vessels. The light  
components from the oil are collected and recycled to be used  
as the hydrocarbon diluent, and the aqueous solution is col-  
lected and recycled. A second aqueous solution is introduced  
in the second and subsequent vessels to prevent the formation  
of an oil film on the equipment.

**6 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**

