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Hessert

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[54] **GEL FORMATION BY POLYMER CROSSLINKING**

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[58] **Field of Search** ..... 252/8.55 R, 8.55 D, 252/316; 166/294, 295, 283, 270; 260/DIG. 14, 29.6 H; 106/194

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A composition of matter comprising water, a polymer capable of being crosslinked by polyvalent metal cations, a reducible species containing said polyvalent metal in a higher oxidation state, and a reducing agent selected from among KI, $MnCl_2$, $Mn(NO_3)_2$, and $K_4Fe(CN)_6$ which composition is capable of forming a gel by crosslinking is provided. A method is also provided for in situ gel formation using this crosslinking composition. In one of its embodiments a method is provided for increasing the rate of gel formation by the addition of H^+ ion.

10 Claims, No Drawings