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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

A new method for improving the conductivity of alkaline membrane by incorporating TiO<sub>2</sub>- ionic liquid composite particles

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### **Abstract**

In this paper, we prepared a series of ionic liquids including methyl ionic liquids, ethyl ionic liquids and hydroxyethyl ionic liquids. We used the common polymer backbone polyphenylene ether and the conventional conductive group triethylamine. We introduced three different ionic liquids to investigate different effects of the extent of ion conductivity improvement from its structure change. The introduction of ionic liquid significantly improved the ionic conductivity of the alkaline membrane. The highest conductivity of the composite membranes was 2.5 times higher than that of the pure membrane. A certain amount of nano-TiO<sub>2</sub>

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