CLAIMS

1. A method for removing heavy hydrocarbons from a solvent stream, said method comprising:

providing, to a static mixer a first batch of a mixture and a light hydrocarbon, the first batch of mixture comprising heavy hydrocarbons and at least one solvent;

mixing the first batch of a mixture and the light hydrocarbons in the static mixer to form a mixed product;

feeding the mixed product to a first separator;

extracting, from the first separator, the heavy hydrocarbons and the light hydrocarbons from the mixed product;

removing, from the first separator, a solvent from the mixed product;

washing, in a second separator, the heavy hydrocarbons and the light hydrocarbons with a water wash;

removing, from the second separator, said water wash and a carry-over solvent;

isolating an output stream comprising heavy hydrocarbons; and

wherein no water wash is added to the mixed product prior to feeding the mixed product to the first separator.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said output stream comprising heavy hydrocarbons further comprises said light hydrocarbons.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said solvent removed from the first separator and said carry-over solvent removed from the second separator are combined and fed into an aromatic extraction unit for further processing.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising regenerating the at least one solvent;

wherein the regenerating step comprises use of a solvent regeneration system.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said water wash comprises condensed stripping steam produced by said solvent regeneration system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein a concentration of said heavy hydrocarbons in said at least one solvent is above a threshold value that triggers operation of said method.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said solvent stream comprises aromatic compounds.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said extracting step removes heavy aromatic compounds.