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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

PROCESS FOR REDUCING TOTAL ACID NUMBER OF CRUDE OIL

The instant invention is directed to a process for reducing organic acids in petroleum feeds containing organic acids comprising: (a) thermally treating a petroleum feed containing organic acids in a thermal reaction zone comprising a plurality of stages in series, at a temperature and pressure sufficient to decompose at least a portion of said organic acids while sweeping said plurality of stages with an inert gas, to produce a volatile organic acid containing hydrocarbon fraction and a non-volatile hydrocarbon fraction; (b) treating said volatile hydrocarbon fraction to neutralize at least a portion of said organic acids therein and to produce a treated volatile hydrocarbon fraction; (c) collecting said non-volatile hydrocarbon fraction from said thermal reaction zone; and (d) blending said treated volatile hydrocarbon fraction of step (b) with said collected non-volatile hydrocarbon fraction.