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(54) Title: UPGRADING HYDROCARBON LIQUIDS TO ULTRA-LOW SULFUR NEEDLE COKE

(57) Abstract: A variety of systems and methods are disclosed, including, in one embodiment, a method of needle coke production. The method includes hydro-processing a hydrocarbon liquid by contacting the hydrocarbon liquid with at least one hydro-processing catalyst in one or more hydro-processing stages to form a hydro-processed product, wherein the hydro-processing of the hydrocarbon liquid in at least one of the one or more hydro-processing stages is performed in the presence of a utility fluid. The hydrocarbon liquid includes an initial boiling point at atmospheric pressure of about 200°C or greater in accordance with ASTM 7500. The hydrocarbon liquid includes an aromatic content of about 50 wt.% or greater. The method further includes coking at least a portion of the hydro-processed product to form a coker effluent and coke, wherein the coke comprises needle coke.



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