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(54) Title: THERMAL CONVERSION OF HEAVY HYDROCARBONS TO MESOPHASE PITCH

(57) Abstract: A process for producing mesophase pitch, the process including: providing a feedstock having a T5 $\geq$ 400°F (204°C) and a T95 $\leq$ 1,400°F (760°C); heating the feedstock at a temperature of at least 450°C to produce a heat treated product including mesophase pitch, wherein the heating is conducted under reaction conditions sufficient to have an equivalent reaction time greater than or equal to 1,000 seconds; and recovering the mesophase pitch.