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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/09019 (22) International Filing Date: 26 April 1999 (26.04.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/074,268 7 May 1998 (07.05.98) US (71) Applicant: EXXON RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY [US/US]; 180 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 390, Florham Park, NJ 07932-0390 (US). (72) Inventor: GUPTA, Ramesh; 57 Lawrence Drive, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922 (US). (74) Agents: NAYLOR, Henry, E. et al.; Exxon Research and Engineering Company, P.O. Box 390, Florham Park, NJ 07932-0390 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, TT, UA, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>	

(54) Title: MULTI-STAGE HYDROPROCESSING OF MIDDLE DISTILLATES TO AVOID COLOR BODIES**(57) Abstract**

A process for hydroprocessing middle distillate petroleum streams in two temperature stages is disclosed. The feedstream (11) is hydroprocessed in two or more first temperature stages operated at a temperature from about 360 to about 450 degrees celsius. The reaction product (13) of the first temperature stage(s) is quenched to a temperature from about 260 to about 350 degrees celsius, stripped of hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and other dissolved gases to form a reaction product (17) which is sent to a second temperature stage which is operated at said quenched temperature range. The product from the second temperature stage is also stripped of dissolved gases in a stripping zone (16b). Color bodies produced in the higher temperature first stage are hydrogenated in the last stage.

