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(54) Title: MAINTENANCE OF OIL PRODUCTION AND REFINING EQUIPMENT

(57) Abstract: The deposition of asphaltenes and/or petroleum waxes can be inhibited and/or asphaltenes and/or petroleum waxes can be removed from a well, pipe or vessel by contacting the asphaltene and/or petroleum wax or the well pipe or vessel adjacent a location where deposition of asphaltene and/or petroleum wax is expected, with a solvent including at least one compound of the formula (I): R^1-$(AO)_n$-OOC-$(CH_2)_m$-Ph-$(R^2)_p$ where R^1 is a C_1 to C_{20} hydrocarbyl group; AO is an alkyleneoxy group and may vary along the (poly)alkyleneoxy chain; n is 0 or from 1 to 100; m is 0, 1 or 2; and Ph is a phenyl group, which may be substituted with groups $(R^2)_p$ where each R^2 is independently a C_1 to C_4 alkyl or alkoxy group; and p is 0, 1 or 2, and subsequently removing the solvent with softened, dissolved or dispersed asphaltenes and/or petroleum waxes from the well, pipe or vessel.