CLAIMS:

~~1. A method of producing solid pellets from a hydroconversion pitch~~ produced from a hydroconversion process, the method comprising:

providing a stream of hydroconversion pitch;

providing a stream of polymer additive;

mixing the stream of hydroconversion pitch with the stream of polymer additive to produce a mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive; and

pelletizing the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive to produce pellets having a softening point of at least 65°C (150°F).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroconversion pitch is slurry hydroconversion pitch, wherein the hydroconversion process is a slurry hydroconversion process.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive contains less than 10 wt% of polymer additive, the stream of polymer additive optionally being a molten stream of polymer additive.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive contains less than 5 wt% of polymer additive.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive contains less than 1 wt% of polymer additive.

6. The method according to any of the above claims, wherein the polymer additive is one of polyethylenes, polypropylenes and polycarbonates and mixtures thereof.

7. The method according to claim 7, wherein the polymer additive is a low density polyethylene (LDPE), a high density polyethylene (HDPE), or a combination thereof.

8. The method according to any of the above claims, further comprising:

providing a stream of air; and

passing the stream of hydroconversion pitch through the stream of air prior to mixing with the stream of the polymer additive.

9. The method according to any of the above claims, wherein the pellets having a softening point of at least 93°C (200°F).

10. A solid hydroconversion pitch pellet produced according to the method of any of the above claims, the polymer additive being less than 10 wt% of the total mixture.

11. A system for producing solid pellets from a hydroconversion pitch produced from a hydroconversion process, the system operating according to a method according any of claims 1 – 10.

12. A system for producing solid pellets from a hydroconversion pitch produced from a hydroconversion process, the system comprising:

a source of hydroconversion pitch;

a source of polymer additive;

a mixing assembly for mixing the hydroconversion pitch with the polymer additive to produce a mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive; and

pelletizing assembly for processing the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive to produce pellets having a softening point of at least 65°C (150°F).

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein the hydroconversion pitch is slurry hydroconversion pitch, wherein the hydroconversion process is a slurry hydroconversion process.

~~14. The system according any of claims 12 or 13, wherein the stream of~~ polymer additive is a molten stream of polymer additive, or wherein the polymer additive is one of polyethylenes, polypropylenes and polycarbonates and mixtures thereof, or wherein the polymer additive is a low density polyethylene (LDPE) or a high density polyethylene (HDPE), or a combination thereof.

15. The system according to any of claims 12 – 14, further comprising:

a source of air, wherein the hydroconversion pitch is passed through the source of air prior to mixing with the polymer additive.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of producing solid pellets from a hydroconversion pitch produced from a hydroconversion process, the method comprising:

providing a stream of hydroconversion pitch;

providing a stream of polymer additive, the polymer additive comprising a polymer having a molecular weight greater than 100,000;

mixing the stream of hydroconversion pitch with the stream of polymer additive to produce a mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive; and

pelletizing the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive to produce pellets having a softening point of at least 65°C (150°F).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroconversion pitch is slurry hydroconversion pitch, wherein the hydroconversion process is a slurry hydroconversion process.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive contains less than 10 wt % of polymer additive.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the stream of polymer additive is a molten stream of polymer additive.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer additive is one of polyethylenes, polypropylenes and polycarbonates and mixtures thereof.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the polymer additive is a low density polyethylene (LDPE), a high density polyethylene (HINT), or a combination thereof.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing a stream of air; and

passing the stream of hydroconversion pitch through the stream of air prior to mixing with the stream of the polymer additive.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the pellets having a softening point of at least 93°C (200°F).

9. A system for producing solid pellets from a hydroconversion pitch produced from a hydroconversion process, the system comprising:

a source of hydroconversion pitch;

a source of polymer additive, the polymer additive comprising a polymer having a molecular weight greater than 100,000;

a mixing assembly for mixing the hydroconversion pitch with the polymer additive to produce a mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive; and

pelletizing assembly for processing the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive to produce pellets having a softening point of at least 65°C (150°F).

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the hydroconversion pitch is slurry hydroconversion pitch, wherein the hydroconversion process is a shiny hydroconversion process.

11. The system according to claim 9, wherein the stream of polymer additive is a molten stream of polymer additive.

12. The system according to claim 9, wherein the polymer additive is one of polyethylenes, polypropylenes and polycarbonates and mixtures thereof, or wherein the polymer additive is a low density polyethylene (LDPE), high density polyethylene (HDPE), or a combination thereof.

13. The system according to claim 9, further comprising:

a source of air, wherein the hydroconversion pitch is passed through the source of air prior to mixing with the polymer additive.

14. A solid hydroconversion pitch pellet comprising:

a mixture of a hydroconversion pitch and a polymer additive, the polymer additive comprising a polymer having a molecular weight greater than 100,000,

wherein the polymer additive is less than 10 wt % of the total mixture, the pellet having a softening point of at least 65°C (150°F).

15. The pellet according to claim 14, wherein the hydroconversion pitch is slurry hydroconversion pitch.

16. The pellet according to claim 14, wherein the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive contains less than 5 wt % of polymer additive.

17. The pellet according to claim 14, wherein the mixture of hydroconversion pitch and polymer additive contains less than 1 wt% of polymer additive.

18. The pellet according to claim 14, wherein the polymer additive is one of polyethylenes, polypropylenes and polycarbonates and mixtures thereof.

19. The pellet according to claim 18, wherein the polymer additive is a low density polyethylene (LDPE), a high density polyethylene (HDPE), or a combination thereof.

20. The pellet according to claim 14, wherein the pellet has a softening point of at least 93°C (200°F).