

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
26 October 2023 (26.10.2023)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2023/205307 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07C 1/24 (2006.01) C07C 409/08 (2006.01)
C07C 15/46 (2006.01) C07C 409/10 (2006.01)
C07C 407/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2023/019221

(22) International Filing Date:

20 April 2023 (20.04.2023)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

63/333,409 21 April 2022 (21.04.2022) US

(71) Applicant: **LYONDELL CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY, L.P.** [US/US]; 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77010 (US).

(72) Inventors: **LEYSHON, David, W.**; c/o LyondellBasell IP Legal Dept., 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77010 (US). **NAGY, Sandor**; c/o LyondellBasell IP Legal Dept., 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77010 (US). **ROSS-MEDGAARDEN, Elizabeth, I.**; c/o LyondellBasell IP Legal Dept., 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77010 (US).

(74) Agent: **STREETER, Leslie** et al.; LyondellBasell, 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77010 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, CV, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(54) Title: USE OF CARBON DIOXIDE TO IMPROVE CAUSTIC WASHING OF ALKYLENE OXIDE / ALKENYL BENZENE MONOMER STREAMS

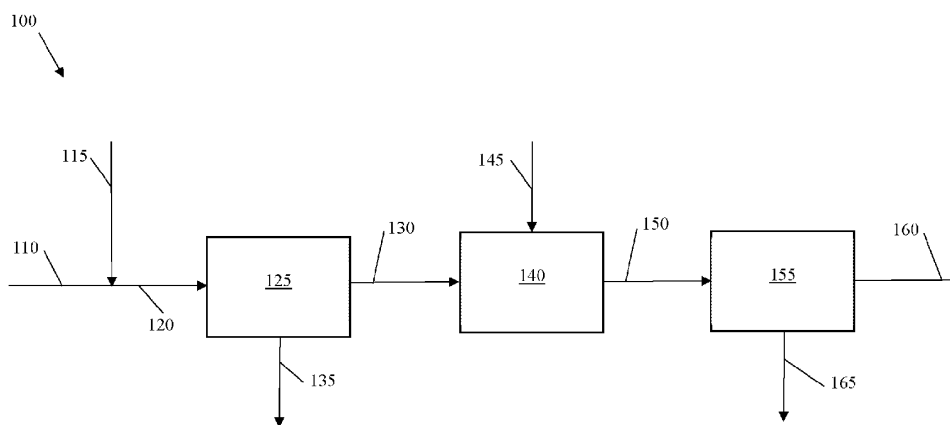


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method for removing metal salts from alkylaromatic oxidate streams used for alkene oxide production, or used in the co-production of propylene oxide and styrene monomer ("POSM"), and methods for caustic washing of oxidate streams formed in these processes. The concentration of metal salts carried over from a caustic washing may be reduced by washing the organic phase resulting from the caustic wash with water in the presence of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The CO₂ may be provided in any form, such as gaseous CO₂, dry ice, carbonated water, supercritical (liquid) CO₂, or any other suitable form.

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Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))