

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C10G 33/00, 33/04, 33/02, 31/08	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/50540 (43) International Publication Date: 31 August 2000 (31.08.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/04999 (22) International Filing Date: 25 February 2000 (25.02.00) (30) Priority Data: 09/258,620 26 February 1999 (26.02.99) US (71) Applicant: EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY [US/US]; 180 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 390, Florham Park, NJ 07932-0390 (US). (72) Inventors: MANALASTAS, Pacifico, Viernes; 316 McKinley Avenue, Edison, NJ 08820 (US). VARADARAJ, Ramesh; 18 Aberdeen Circle, Flemington, NJ 08822 (US). SAVAGE, David, William; 5 Fieldstone Drive, Lebanon, NJ 08833 (US). SARTORI, Guido; 73 Meadowview Drive, Annandale, NJ 08801-1516 (US). HEMRAJANI, Ramesh, Relumal; 238 Skyline Drive, Millington, NJ 07946 (US). BRONS, Cornelius, Hendrick; 28 Fairview Street, Washington, NJ 07882 (US). (74) Agents: SCUORZO, Linda, M. et al.; ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company, P.O. Box 390, Florham Park, NJ 07932-0390 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, JP, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: CRUDE OIL DESALTING METHOD		
(57) Abstract The invention is directed towards a process for desalting crude oil that requires less wash water than conventional desalting methods. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, a chemical demulsifier formulation comprising an emulsion-breaking chemical and a solvent carrier is added to the crude oil. Wash water is then added to the crude oil until the volume of water in the oil ranges from about 0.1 to about 3 vol. %. Subsequently, the mixture of crude oil, wash water, and chemical demulsifier formulation may be subjected to opposed-flow mixing.		