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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/01961 (22) International Filing Date: 29 January 1999 (29.01.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/073,158 30 January 1998 (30.01.98) US (71) Applicant: EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS INC. [US/US]; 5200 Bayway Drive, Baytown, TX 77520-5200 (US). (72) Inventors: MOHR, Gary, D.; 2018 Caravel Drive, League City, TX 77573 (US). SANCHEZ, Leonel, E.; 4 Calle 2-41 Zona 15, Valles de Vista Hermosa, Guatemala City (GT). (74) Agents: SHERER, Edward, F. et al.; Exxon Chemical Com- pany, P.O. Box 2149, Baytown, TX 77522-2149 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, 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: REACTIVE DISTILLATION PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF XYLENES (57) Abstract A reactive distillation process for the production of xylenes by contacting toluene with a methylating agent and in the presence of a toluene methylation catalyst. The reactive distillation process is preferably carried out in a reaction/distillation column under conditions which include a temperature no greater than about 320 °C. Enhanced amounts of paraxylene can be produced by the reactive distillation process.		