CLAIMS

1. A method for removing organic acid from a rich MEG stream, the organic acid being a carboxylic acid having no more than 4 carbon atoms, the method comprising the step of stripping the organic acid from the rich MEG stream by contacting the rich MEG stream with a gas in a MEG/organic acid stripping column, wherein the rich MEG stream exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column substantially free of the organic acid and the gas exits the MEG/organic acid column containing organic acid stripped from the rich MEG stream.

2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of stripping the organic acid contained in the gas that exits the MEG/organic acid column by contacting the gas with a caustic solution when in a gas/organic acid stripping column, wherein the gas exits the gas/organic acid stripping column substantially free of the organic acid and a waste stream exits the gas/organic acid stripping column containing organic acid stripped from the gas and a portion of the caustic solution.

3. A method according to claim 2 further comprising the step of recycling a portion of the gas exiting the gas/organic acid stripping column for use in the MEG/organic acid stripping column.

4. A method according to claim 2 further comprising the step of recycling a portion of the waste stream back to the gas/organic acid column.

5. A method according to claim 2 wherein the caustic solution is a sodium hydroxide solution comprising about 1% sodium hydroxide.

6. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of adjusting, when needed, the pH of the rich MEG stream to a pH<4.

7. A method for removing organic acid from a rich MEG stream, the organic acid being a carboxylic acid, the method comprising the steps of:

stripping the organic acid from the rich MEG stream by contacting the rich MEG stream with a gas in a MEG/organic acid stripping column, wherein the rich MEG stream exits the MEG/organic acid stripping column substantially free of the organic acid and the gas exits the MEG/organic acid column containing organic acid stripped from the rich MEG stream;

stripping the organic acid contained in the gas that exits the MEG/organic acid column by contacting the gas with a caustic solution when in a gas/organic acid stripping column, wherein the gas exits the gas/organic acid stripping column substantially free of the organic acid and a waste stream exits the gas/organic acid stripping column containing organic acid stripped from the gas and a portion of the caustic solution.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the carboxylic acid has no more than 4 carbon atoms.

9. A method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of recycling a portion of the gas exiting the gas/organic acid stripping column for use in the MEG/organic acid stripping column.

10. A method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of recycling a portion of the waste stream back to the gas/organic acid column.

11. A method according to claim 7 wherein the caustic solution is a sodium hydroxide solution comprising about 1% sodium hydroxide.

12. A method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of adjusting, when needed, the pH of the rich MEG stream to a pH<4.