

ABSTRACT

**APPARATUS AND METHOD OF TRANSPORTING NONGASEOUS
HYDROCARBON PRODUCTS**

5 The present invention is a tank disposed within a container for storing, transporting and delivering nongaseous hydrocarbon products such as bitumen efficiently, safely and economically. At least one heater is located at the bottom section of the container for raising and/or maintaining the temperature within the container and around the tank. An inlet is provided
10 for loading liquidified hydrocarbon products into the tank, and an outlet is provided at the bottom of the tank and through the container for unloading the hydrocarbon products. The present invention permits nongaseous hydrocarbon products to be transported in bulk as soon as they are loaded and without waiting for such products to solidify. The preexisting insulation
15 of the container combined with the trapped air in the container and the hull of the tank provides additional insulation for the present invention. As a result, reheating of nongaseous products is obviated as heat loss is minimal. At the same time, temperature on the surface of the loaded container is at ambient temperature, thus making it suitable to existing
20 mode of transporting containers. It follows that the present invention is not only safe but achieves energy efficiency and cost savings not possible under prior art apparatus and methods.

25 Fig. 2.