

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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 October 2001 (25.10.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/079386 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C10G 19/02** (74) Agents: SCUORZO, Linda, M. et al.; ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company, P.O. Box 900, Annandale, NJ 08801-0900 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/09900
- (22) International Filing Date: 28 March 2001 (28.03.2001) (81) Designated States (*national*): AU, CA, ID, JP, SG.
- (25) Filing Language: English (84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 09/551,669 18 April 2000 (18.04.2000) US Published: — with international search report
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WO 01/079386 A3

(54) Title: METHOD FOR REDUCING THE NAPHTHENIC ACID CONTENT OF CRUDE OIL AND ITS FRACTIONS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for reducing naphthenic acid content of crude oils and its fractions in the presence of an aqueous base selected from Group IA and IIA hydroxides and ammonium hydroxide and mixtures thereof, a phase transfer agent at a temperature and pressure effective to produce a treated petroleum feed having a decreased naphthenic acid content and an aqueous phase containing naphthenate salts, phase transfer agent and base.