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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/07969 (22) International Filing Date: 12 April 1999 (12.04.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/059,854 14 April 1998 (14.04.98) US (71) Applicant: MOBIL OIL CORPORATION [US/US]; 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax, VA 22037 (US). (72) Inventors: BECK, Jeffrey, Scott; 1 Manchester Way, Burlington, NJ 08016 (US). CRANE, Robert, Andrew, Jr.; 1367 Ellis Mill Road, Monroeville, NJ 08343 (US). MATHIAS, Mark, Fischer; 12 Ryder Cup Circle, Pittsford, NY 14534 (US). KOWALSKI, Jocelyn, Anne; 113 Brookside Way, Sewell, NJ 08080 (US). LISSY, Daria, Nowakiwska; 404 South Ivy Lane, Glen Mills, PA 19342 (US). STERN, David, Lawrence; 3906 Tambrook Drive, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 (US). (74) Agents: ROBERTS, Peter, W. et al.; Mobil Oil Corporation, 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax, VA 22037 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, BG, BR, CA, CN, HU, ID, IN, JP, KR, MX, NO, PL, RU, SG, ZA, 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). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: XYLENE ISOMERIZATION (57) Abstract A process is described for isomerizing a feed which contains ethylbenzene and xylene, which process comprises the steps of: a) contacting the feed under ethylbenzene conversion conditions with a particulate first catalyst component which comprises a molecular sieve having a Constraint Index of 1-12, the particles of said first catalyst component having a surface to volume ratio of 80 to less than 200 inch⁻¹ and the contacting step converting ethylbenzene in the feed to form an ethylbenzene-depleted product; and then b) contacting the ethylbenzene-depleted product under xylene isomerization conditions with a second catalyst component.		