WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A natural gas engine lubricating oil composition comprising (a) a major amount of an oil of lubricating viscosity, (b) one or more phosphorus-containing anti-wear additives, (c) 1 to 8 wt.%, based on the total weight of the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition, of one or more ashless dispersants, (d) 0.5 to 2.5 wt.%, based on the total weight of the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition, of one or more alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid having a total base number of from 100 to 250, and (e) 0.1 to 5 wt.%, based on the total weight of the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition, of one or more antioxidants, wherein the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition contains no more than ~~about~~ 0.03 weight percent of phosphorus, based on the total weight of the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition, and further wherein the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition is substantially free of any alkali metal-containing detergents, and has a sulfated ash content of 0.12 wt. % to 1.0 wt. % as determined by ASTM D 874.

2. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition of Claim 1, wherein the one or more phosphorus-containing anti-wear additives are selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbyl phosphite, a hydrocarbyl phosphate and mixtures thereof.

3. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein the one or more phosphorus-containing anti-wear additives comprises a primary zinc alkyldithiophosphate.

4. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to any one of Claims 1-3, wherein the one or more ashless dispersants comprise a bissuccinimide.

5. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to any one of Claims 1-4, wherein the one or more alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic

carboxylic acid comprise one or more alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxybenzoic acid.

6. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to any one of Claims 1-4, wherein the one or more alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid comprise one or more overbased alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid.

7. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to any one of Claims 1-4, wherein the one or more alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid comprise a calcium salt of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid.

~~8. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition of Claim 7, wherein the calcium salt of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid is present in the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition in an amount of about 0.05 to about 2.5 wt. %, based on the total weight of the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition.~~

~~9~~8. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to any one of Claims 1-~~8~~7, wherein the one or more antioxidants comprise a hindered phenol compound.

~~10~~9. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to Claims 1-9, having a sulfated ash content of ~~about~~ 0.15 to ~~about~~ 0.3 wt. % as determined by ASTM D 874.

~~11~~10. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition of Claim 1, comprising:

~~about~~ 0.25 to ~~about~~ 1.5 wt. % of the one or more phosphorus-containing anti-wear additives~~,~~

~~about 1 wt. % to about 8 wt. % of the one or more ashless dispersants,~~

~~about 0.5 wt. % to about 2.5 wt. % of the one or more alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid, and~~

~~about 0.1 wt. % to about 5 wt. % of the one or more antioxidants, based on the total weight of the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition~~.

~~12~~11. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to Claims 1-~~11~~10, further comprising sulfurized isobutylene.

~~13~~12. The natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more alkaline earth metal salts of an alkyl-substituted hydroxyaromatic carboxylic acid ~~as~~ is the only detergent in the natural gas engine lubricating oil composition.

~~14~~13. A method for preventing or inhibiting exhaust valve seat recession in a natural gas fueled engine, the method comprising lubricating the natural gas fueled engine with a natural gas engine lubricating oil composition according to Claims 1-~~13~~12.

~~15~~14. The use of a natural gas engine lubricating oil composition as defined in Claims 1-~~13~~12 for the purpose of preventing or inhibiting exhaust valve seat recession in a natural gas fueled engine.