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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/24872 (22) International Filing Date: 22 October 1999 (22.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/222,980 30 December 1998 (30.12.98) US (71) Applicant: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY [US/US]; 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US). (72) Inventors: MAAS, Christianus, Johannes, J.; Hoofdweg 79, NL-4411 AP Rilland (NL). OYEVAAR, Martin, Herke; Valckeslotiaan 149, NL-4461 Sc Goes (NL). GRAFF, Jos, H., M.; J. Frisolaan 3, NL-4671 GE Dinteloord (NL). (74) Agents: SNYDER, Bernard et al.; General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike W3C, Fairfield, CT 06431 (US).		(81) Designated States: CN, JP, SG, 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: PHENOL RECOVERY FROM BPA PROCESS WASTE STREAMS (57) Abstract This disclosure is of a process for recovering valuable by-products of the condensation of phenol and a ketone from a mother liquor obtained for example upon crystallization of a 1:1 adduct of phenol and bisphenol, the mother liquor containing phenol, bisphenol, isomers, contaminant by-products of the condensation reaction of phenol with the ketone and acidic impurities. The mother liquor is distilled/evaporated leaving a tarry residue, which is the feedstock for the process of the invention. The recovery comprises catalytically cracking the feedstock with catalytic proportions of an aromatic sulfonic acid to extract the bisphenol-A values as phenol and acetone.		