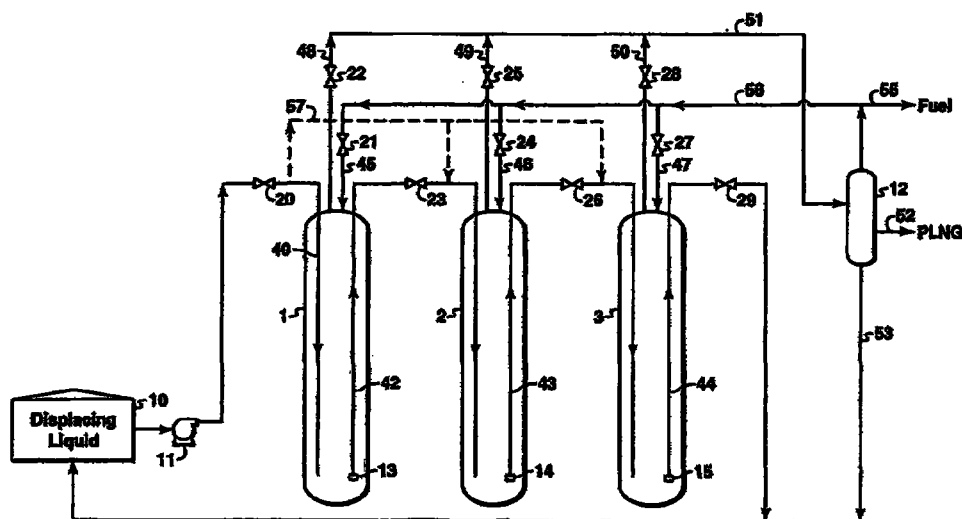




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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/30251 (22) International Filing Date: 17 December 1999 (17.12.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/112,974 18 December 1998 (18.12.98) US (71) Applicant: EXXONMOBIL UPSTREAM RESEARCH COMPANY [US/US]; 3120 Buffalo Speedway, P.O. Box 2189, Houston, TX 77252-2189 (US). (72) Inventors: WOODALL, Robert, M.; 31 Twilight Glen Court, The Woodlands, TX 77381 (US). MINTA, Moses; 39 Sterling Street, Sugar Land, TX 77479 (US). (74) Agents: CASAMASSIMA, Salvatore, J. et al.; ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company, P.O. Box 2189, Houston, TX 77252-2189 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), 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), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD FOR DISPLACING PRESSURIZED LIQUEFIED GAS FROM CONTAINERS



(57) Abstract

A method is disclosed for unloading a plurality of containers (1, 2, 3) containing pressurized liquefied gas in which the liquefied gas has a temperature above -112°C . A pressurized displacement liquid is fed to a first of the plurality of containers (1) to discharge the pressurized liquefied gas therefrom. The displacement liquid is then pumped from the first container (1) to a second container (2) of the plurality of containers to discharge liquefied gas therefrom. As the displacement liquid is removed from the first container (1), the space caused by the removal of the displacement liquid is filled with a vapor at a lower pressure than the pressure of displacement liquid. Fluid communication between the first (1) and second (2) containers is then severed and the above steps are repeated for all containers in succession, except that for the last container (3) in the series the displacement liquid is pumped therefrom to an auxiliary container for storage rather than to another container.