CLAIMS

1) A **microporous sheet** of polyolefin grafted with a preformed poly(4-ethenyl benzene sulfonic acid).

2) The microporous sheet of claim 1 where the polyolefin is poly(ethylene).

3) An **asymmetric composite membrane** comprising a film of partially crosslinked poly(ethenol) adhered to one side of a microporous sheet of polyolefin grafted with a preformed poly(4-ethenyl benzene sulfonic acid).

4) The asymmetric composite membrane of claim 3 where the polyolefin is poly(ethylene).

5) A **method** of preparing a hydrophilicitized microporous sheet of polyolefin comprising the steps of:

   a) Contacting a microporous sheet of polyolefin with a dispersion comprising a preformed poly(4-ethenylbenzenesulfonic acid) in an aqueous solvent to provide a contacted microporous sheet;

   b) Curing the contacted microporous sheet at a temperature and for a time sufficient for at least a portion of the poly(4-ethenylbenzenesulfonic acid) to be grafted onto the polyolefin substrate to provide a cured microporous sheet; and then

   c) Washing the cured microporous sheet to provide the hydrophilicitized microporous sheet of polyolefin.

6) The method of claim 5 where the polyolefin is is poly(ethylene).

7) The method of claim 5 or 6 where the aqueous solvent is acetone-water.

8) The method of any one of claims 5 to 7 where the curing the contacted microporous sheet is by irradiating with ultraviolet light in the presence of a photoinitiator.

9) A **hydrophilicitized microporous sheet** of polyolefin prepared according to the method of any one of claims 5 to 8.