

5 IMPROVED METHOD FOR REMOVING METALS AND AMINES FROM CRUDE OIL

ABSTRACT

10 A method of removing metals and amines from crude oil comprising adding an effective metal removing amount of one or more hydroxycarboxylic acids selected from lactic acid and malic acid and salts thereof to said crude oil; adding wash water to said crude oil; mixing said crude oil, acid and wash water to form an emulsion; and resolving said emulsion into an aqueous phase and crude oil having a reduced metals content.

15 (No Suitable Figures)