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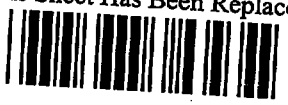

ABSTRACT

METHOD FOR ENHANCING THE YIELD OF TERTIARY BUTYL ALCOHOL IN A TERTIARY BUTYL ALCOHOL RECOVERY PROCESS

A tertiary butyl hydroperoxide reaction product is distilled to provide a tertiary butyl alcohol distillation fraction comprising tertiary butyl alcohol and a heavier fraction comprising unreacted tertiary butyl hydroperoxide, and reaction by-products boiling below tertiary butyl alcohol, the tertiary butyl alcohol fraction is charged to a vacuum distillation column for separation into a vaporized overhead tertiary butyl alcohol fraction that is cooled to obtain a liquefaction product comprising a minor amount of vaporized tertiary butyl alcohol and a major amount of a liquified tertiary butyl alcohol, and the tertiary butyl alcohol vapors are dissolved in water to form an aqueous solution of tertiary butyl alcohol from which the tertiary butyl alcohol is recovered.