



(51) International Patent Classification:

C07C 2/58 (2006.01) *B01J 8/02* (2006.01)
C07C 15/00 (2006.01) *B01J 29/44* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2011/036060

(22) International Filing Date:

11 May 2011 (11.05.2011)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

61/333,858 12 May 2010 (12.05.2010) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
 kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
 AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
 CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO,
 DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
 HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP,
 KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD,
 ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
 NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD,
 SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
 TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
 kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
 GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG,
 ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ,
 TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
 EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU,
 LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,
 SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
 GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
 upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE CONVERSION OF LOWER ALKANES TO AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS

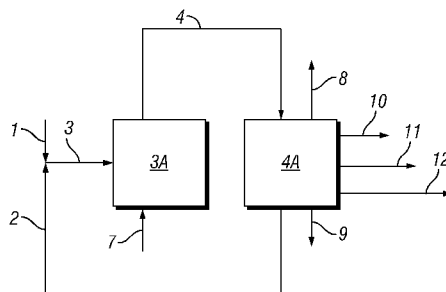


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A process is provided for producing aromatic hydrocarbons which comprises: (a) contacting a lower alkane feed with a solid particulate aromatic hydrocarbon conversion catalyst in a fixed bed reaction zone to produce aromatic hydrocarbons and other products, whereby the catalyst is at least partially deactivated by the formation of undesirable coke deposits, (b) periodically regenerating the catalyst under regeneration conditions, (c) separating aromatic hydrocarbons from the other products and unreacted lower alkanes, and (d) optionally recycling unreacted lower alkanes to the reaction zone wherein the fixed bed reaction zone additionally comprises a volume of a catalytically inactive solid.