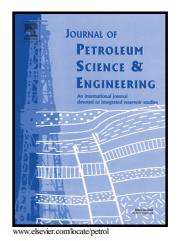
Author's Accepted Manuscript

Operational Conditions Effects on Iranian Heavy Oil Upgrading using Microwave Irradiation

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 PII:
 S0920-4105(17)30098-0

 DOI:
 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.petrol.2017.01.028

 Reference:
 PETROL3837

To appear in: Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering

Received date: 13 June 2016 Revised date: 31 December 2016 Accepted date: 13 January 2017

Cite this article as: Motahareh Mozafari and Zarrin Nasri, Operational Condition Effects on Iranian Heavy Oil Upgrading using Microwave Irradiation, *Journal c Petroleum* Science and Engineering http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.petrol.2017.01.028

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

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9 Abstract

10 Upgrading technology can be used to produce light petroleum from heavy crude oil. One 11 of the new approaches in this area is application of microwave heating. This method has 12 advantages in heavy crude oil upgrading processes. In this paper, the effective parameters 13 on upgrading Iranian heavy crude oil using microwave irradiation have been studied for 14 the first time. The investigated crude oil is from Iranian west Paydar field. The effects of 15 various parameters, including power level, process time, various additives such as amount 16 of sensitizer, and catalysts have been completely investigated. The performed tests to assess the influences of the parameters include measurement final temperature, API, 17 18 asphaltene contents, viscosity, coke, and SARA experiment to determine the components 19 of asphaltenes, saturates, aromatics, and resins. According to the results for the samples 20 with no additives, radiation at low power levels has positive effects on oil characteristics. 21 There is also the optimal radiation time. Adding active carbon as microwaves sensitizer, 22 significantly improves the specification of oil; increases oil API, and decreases gravity and 23 its asphaltene contents. It also causes increasing in process time and power levels upgrade 24 the oil specifications. At the best conditions (power level, 50%; process time, 20 minutes; 25 activated carbon, 10 wt%; catalyst, 4 wt%), API, viscosity, and amount of asphaltenes 26 have been increased 17.56% and reduced 33.73% and 30.5%, respectively. In addition, the 27 results show that the iron catalyst is more desirable in comparison to the other catalysts.

28 Keywords: Heavy crude oil; Upgrading; Microwaves

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31 1. Introduction

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