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(54) **METHODS OF DEMULSIFYING EMULSIONS USING CARBON DIOXIDE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of demulsifying a water-in-oil emulsion comprising an oil phase comprising asphaltenes and an aqueous phase is disclosed. The method comprises contacting a carbon dioxide containing fluid with the emulsion such that the carbon dioxide containing fluid enters the oil phase of the emulsion. The asphaltenes precipitate out of the emulsion and the emulsion destabilizes.

37 Claims, No Drawings