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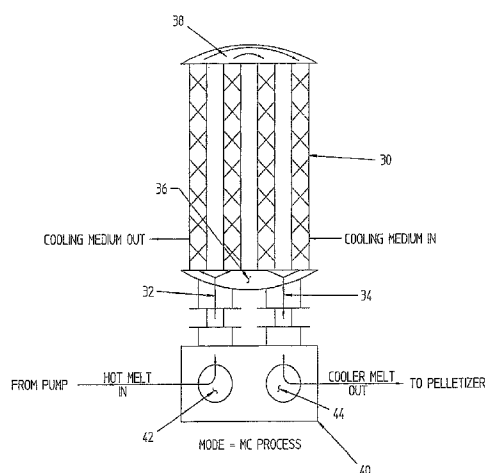
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(54) Title: MELT COOLER AND VALVING SYSTEM FOR AN UNDERWATER PELLETIZING PROCESS



(57) Abstract: A melt cooler (30) and valving system for an underwater pelletizer (6) has a diverter valve (40) that facilitates multiple modes of melt processing. The cooler has a cooler inlet line (32) that conveys the melt to the cooler, and a cooler outlet line (34) that conveys the cooled melt from the cooler. The diverter valve is configured to convey the melt to and from the cooler during a cooling mode of operation, to convey the melt around the cooler during a bypass mode of operation, and to drain the melt from the cooler and the diverter valve during a drain mode of operation. The diverter valve is compact and therefore contains a minimum of product inventory. The valve is streamlined and direct in its bypass mode, and includes a drain capability to allow for faster, easier cleaning of the process line, which in turn provides a fast changeover time with less lost product.