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(54) Title: OFFSHORE HEAVY OIL PRODUCTION

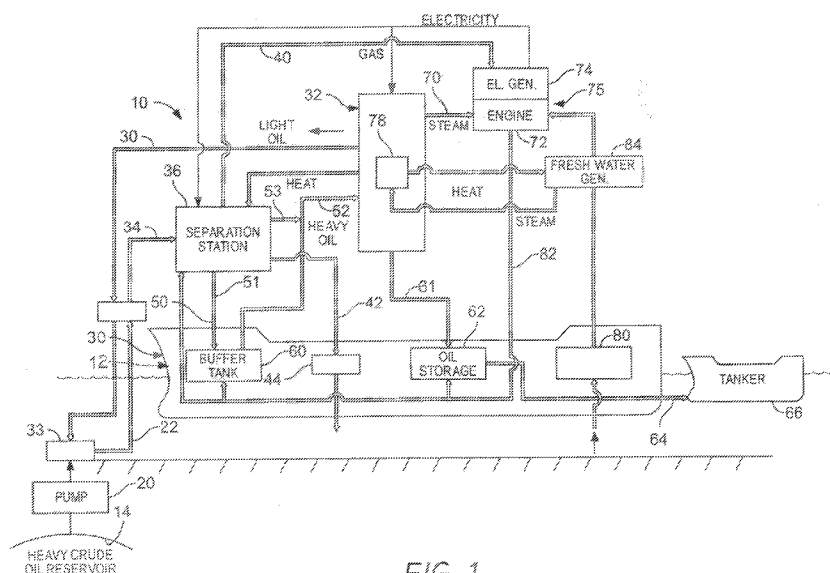


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A system is provided for the production of heavy crude oil from an undersea reservoir, and for the treatment of the crude oil to facilitate its transport. A floating body (12) which produces the heavy crude oil carries a hydrocarbon cracking station (32) that cracks the heavy crude into light liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons; and that uses heat resulting from the cracking to produce pressured steam. The pressured steam is used to drive a steam-powered engine (72) (with pistons or a turbine) that drives an electrical generator (74) whose electricity powers the system.