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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ALBEMARLE CORPORATION** [US/US]; 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LIN, Ronny, W.** [US/US]; 2823 Galahad Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815 (US). **BALHOFF, John, F.** [US/US]; 2816 Dakin Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70820 (US).

(74) Agents: **SPILMAN, Jr., Edgar, E.** et al.; Albemarle Corporation, Law Department, 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801-1765 (US).

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(54) Title: LITHIUM REDUCTION IN STYRENIC POLYMERS

(57) Abstract: This invention provides a process which comprises heating a lithium-containing mixture to one or more temperatures of at least about 90 ° C and at one or more pressures sufficient to maintain substantially the entire mixture in the liquid phase. The lithium-containing mixture which comprises water, lithium ions, at least one liquid saturated hydrocarbon, and at least one styrenic polymer formed by anionic polymerization. The amount of water is at least about 10 wt% relative to the weight of the styrenic polymer, and the styrenic polymer has a weight average molecular weight of at least about 1000.



WO 2008/016810 A1