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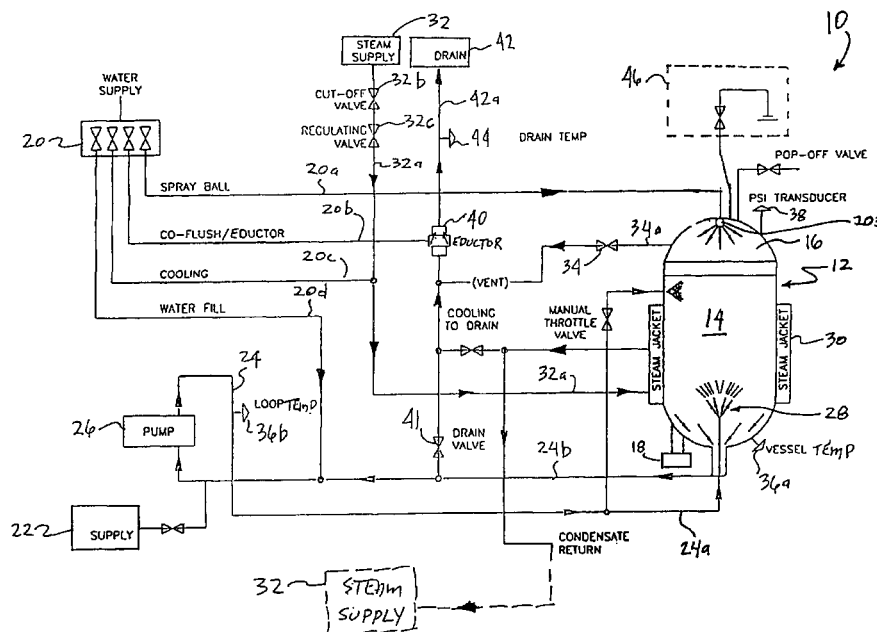
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TREATING INFECTIOUS WASTE MATTER



(57) Abstract: In accordance with the present invention, a system and method is provided for producing a safely disposable end product from waste matter containing undesirable materials, such as infectious, biohazardous, hazardous, or radioactive elements. The method comprises the steps of providing a highly basic solvent, immersing the waste matter containing the undesirable materials within the highly basic solvent, and heating the solvent. The waste matter containing the undesirable materials is allowed to remain within the solvent until digested, thereby forming a solution void of any infectious or biohazardous elements and/or containing a concentration of radioisotope below the maximum permissible concentration (MPC) for release to a sanitary sewer as defined in applicable federal regulations for the waste matter containing such materials. The system includes a tank or vessel (12) capable of containing a highly basic solvent during a closed digestion reaction, heating means (30) for heating the solvent within the vessel, filtering means (40), and means (41) for removing the post-digestion aqueous solution and solid waste materials from within the vessel (12). The post-digestion product in both aqueous and solid form can then be disposed of by conventional means.



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