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(71) Applicant: **EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY**
**Kingsport, TN 37660 (US)**

(72) Inventors:
- **Ekart, Michael Paul**
  **Kingsport, Tennessee 37660 (US)**
- **Jernigan, Mary Therese**
  **Kingsport, Tennessee 37663 (US)**
- **Wells, Cory Lee**
  **Gray, Tennessee 37615 (US)**
- **Windes, Larry**
  **Kingsport, Tennessee 37664 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Jones Day**
**Rechtsanwälte, Attorneys-at-Law, Patentanwälte**
**Prinzregentenstrasse 11**
**80538 München (DE)**

(54) **Thermal crystallization of a molten polyester polymer in a fluid**

(57) A process for crystallizing a polyester polymer by introducing a molten polyester polymer, such as a polyethylene terephthalate polymer, into a liquid medium at a liquid medium temperature greater than the $T_g$ of the polyester polymer, such as at a temperature ranging from 100°C to 190°C, and allowing the molten polyester polymer to reside in the liquid medium for a time sufficient to crystallize the polymer under a pressure equal to or greater than the vapor pressure of the liquid medium: A process flow, underwater cutting process, crystallization in a pipe, and a separator are also described.

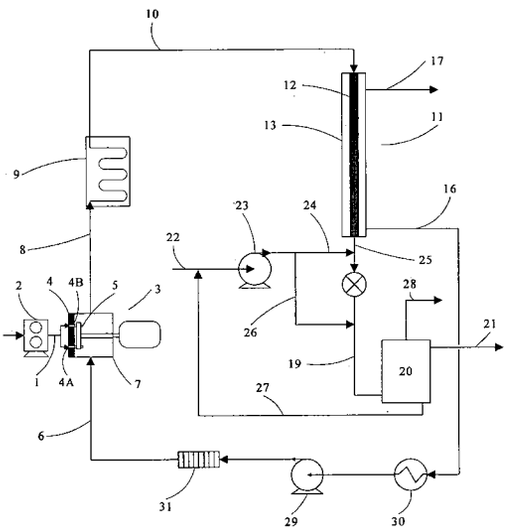


FIGURE 2

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