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(54) Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLEANING A CONDUIT

(57) Abstract: A conduit cleaning or clearing apparatus and method has a housing assembly connectable to a pipeline. The housing has an inlet and outlet leg joined by a bight portion. A cleaning member is rotatably disposed within the housing and may be rotated from a first unobstructing position to a second cleaning position. In the cleaning position, a plurality of spaced apart blades are able to contact and loosen any build-up in the bight portion. A wiping paddle on the cleaning member urges the loosen build-up out the outlet leg and through the drain line. The paddle may cooperate with a locator seat on the housing to retain the cleaning member in an unobstructing position when not cleaning or clearing the bight. A power wheel may operatively connect with said cleaning member to rotate the cleaning member when a driving fluid is in communication with the wheel.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: E03C 1/12(2006.01)</p> <p>USPC: 4/256.1,679;137/242,247.49,247.51 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																						
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 4/256.1,679; 137/242,247.49,247.51</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)</p>																						
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 6,385,799 A (DOYEN) 14 May 2002 (14.05.2002), the entire document.</td> <td>1, 5, 7-11, 13, 14 and 18-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 232,376 A (STAPLES) 21 September 1880 (21.09.1880), the entire document.</td> <td>1-20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 6,385,799 A (DOYEN) 14 May 2002 (14.05.2002), the entire document.	1, 5, 7-11, 13, 14 and 18-20	A	US 232,376 A (STAPLES) 21 September 1880 (21.09.1880), the entire document.	1-20											
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<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A"</td> <td>document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T"</td> <td>later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E"</td> <td>earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L"</td> <td>document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O"</td> <td>document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&"</td> <td>document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P"</td> <td>document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family	"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
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<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201</p>		<p>Authorized officer Huyen Le <i>[Signature]</i> Telephone No. 571-272- <i>[Signature]</i></p>																				