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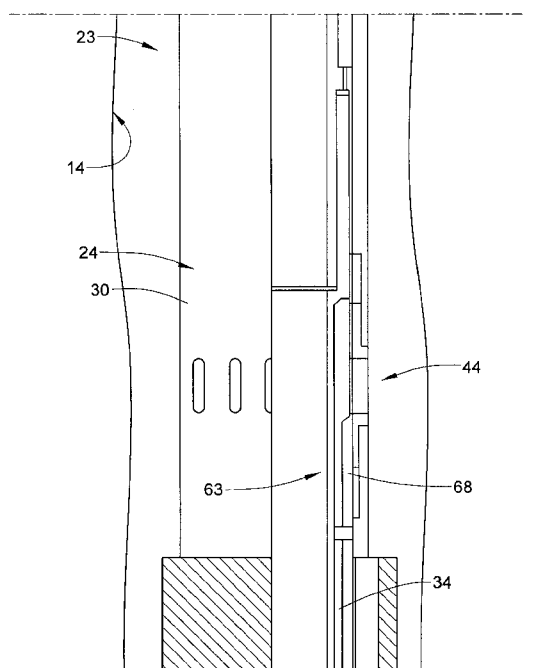
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

- (54) Title: MULTI-ZONE SINGLE TREATMENT GRAVEL PACK SYSTEM

FIG. 2A



- (57) Abstract: A gravel pack system includes a tool string having an inner string member, an outer string member, and a passage arranged between the outer string member and the inner string member. A packing element is provided on the outer string member. A first valve is coupled to one of the outer string member and the inner string member outwardly of the packing element in a downhole direction. The first valve fluidically connects the passage and the open hole wellbore. The first valve is configured and disposed to shift from a closed position to an open position. A second valve is coupled to one of the outer string member and the inner string member outwardly of the packing element in an up hole direction. The second valve selectively fluidically connects the passage and the open hole wellbore. The second valve shifts from an open position to a closed position.



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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*
- Published:**
- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

MULTI-ZONE SINGLE TREATMENT GRAVEL PACK SYSTEM

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 14/323172, filed on July 3, 2014, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] In a wellbore, it may be desirable to enhance structural integrity at desirable zone(s). Conventionally, structural integrity of wellbore walls is enhanced with a gravel pack. Current treatment systems establish a gravel pack across all zones, both desirable and undesirable. Following the gravel pack, an undesirable zone may be isolated from a desirable zone by deploying packing elements. Current systems for gravel packing multiple zones typically require multiple treatments performed sequentially with associated multiple trips into the wellbore.

SUMMARY

[0003] A multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system includes a tool string having an inner string member, an outer string member, and a passage arranged between the outer string member and the inner string member. At least one selectively deployable packing element is provided on the outer string member. A first valve is coupled to one of the outer string member and the inner string member outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element in a downhole direction. The first valve selectively fluidically connects the passage and the open hole wellbore. The first valve is configured and disposed to shift from a closed position to an open position. A second valve is coupled to one of the outer string member and the inner string member outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element in an uphole direction. The second valve selectively fluidically connects the passage and the open hole wellbore. The second valve is configured and disposed to shift from an open position to a closed position.

[0004] A completion system includes an uphole portion having at least one pump and a fluid storage system fluidically connected to the at least one pump, and a downhole portion including a completion string extending into an open hole wellbore. The completion string includes a multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system having a tool string including an inner string member, an outer string member, and a passage arranged between the outer string member and the inner string member, and at least one selectively deployable packing element

provided on the outer string member. A first valve is coupled to one of the outer string member and the inner string member axially outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element in a downhole direction. The first valve selectively fluidically connects the passage and the open hole wellbore. The first valve is configured and disposed to shift from a closed position to an open position. A second valve is coupled to one of the outer string member and the inner string member axially outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element in an uphole direction. The second valve selectively fluidically connects the passage and the open hole wellbore. The second valve is configured and disposed to shift from an open position to a closed position.

[0005] A method of multi-zone single treatment gravel packing an open hole wellbore includes guiding a completion string, including a gravel pack system, into the open hole wellbore, deploying at least one packing element provided on an outer string member to isolate a portion of the open hole wellbore, opening a first valve arranged outwardly of the at least one packing element in a downhole direction, introducing a downhole fluid into the open hole wellbore, guiding the downhole fluid through openings formed in the outer string member outwardly of the at least one packing element in an uphole direction, passing the downhole fluid radially inwardly along the at least one packing element through a passage arranged between the outer string member and an inner string member, guiding the downhole fluid through the first valve back into the open hole wellbore, and closing a second valve arranged at the openings in the outer string member.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] Referring now to the drawings wherein like elements are numbered alike in the several Figures:

[0007] FIG. 1 depicts a resource extraction system including a multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment;

[0008] FIG. 2A depicts a partial cross-sectional view of an upstream portion of the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system of FIG. 1 prior to being run into an open hole wellbore;

[0009] FIG. 2B depicts a partial cross-sectional view of a downstream portion of the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system of FIG. 1 prior to being run into an open hole wellbore

[0010] FIG. 3 depicts a partial cross-sectional view of the downstream portion of the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system of FIG. 2B after being run into an open hole wellbore and a valve opened to allow fluids to flow below a packing element;

[0011] FIG. 4 depicts a partial cross-sectional view of the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system of FIG. 1 after gravel packing;

[0012] FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional view of a gravel packing fluid passing about a packing element through the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system of the exemplary embodiment;

[0013] FIG. 6 is a partial cross-sectional view of a gravel packing fluid filling a wellbore above the packing element of FIG. 5;

[0014] FIG. 7 depicts a schematic view of the gravel pack system illustrating gravel pack fluid flowing to desirable and undesirable zones through the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system; and

[0015] FIG. 8 depicts a schematic view of the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system illustrating gravel pack fluids flowing above the undesirable zone, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0016] A resource capture system, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment, is illustrated generally at 2, in FIG. 1. Resource capture system 2 is shown in the form of a completion system 3 and includes an uphole portion 4 and a downhole portion 6. Uphole portion 6 includes one or more pumps 8 fluidically connected to a fluid storage system 10 that may hold completion fluids 12 that contain gravel (not separately labeled). As will be discussed more fully below, completion fluids, such as gravel pack fluids, are delivered into an open hole wellbore 14 that may include first and second resource bearing zones 15 and 16. A completion string 20 extends into open hole wellbore 14 to isolate resource bearing zones 15 and 16 and facilitate gravel packing. Gravel packing is performed on interior walls (not separately labeled) of resource bearing zones 15 and 16 of open hole wellbore 14.

[0017] In accordance with an aspect of an exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2A and 2B, completion string 20 includes a multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system 23 including a tool string 24. Tool string 24 includes an outer string member 30 and an inner string member 32. Inner string member 32 is spaced from an inner surface (not separately labeled) of outer string member 30 forming a bypass passage 34. A packing element 37 may be mounted to outer string member 30. Outer string member 30 includes a plurality of

openings, one of which is shown at 44. Openings 44 extend annularly about outer string member 30.

[0018] In further accordance with an exemplary embodiment, multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system 23 includes a first valve 54 arranged outwardly of packing element 37 in a downhole direction. First valve 54 may be in a normally closed position, such as shown in FIG. 2B, when multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system 23 is guided into open hole wellbore 14 and may be opened, such as shown in FIG. 3, packing element 37 sets against shale layer 19. First valve 54 may be opened by a tool (not shown) used to trigger setting of packing element 37. Of course, it should be understood that first valve 54 may be opened using a wide array of systems including tool based and non-tool based systems. As will be detailed more fully below, first valve 54 fluidically exposes passage 34 to open hole wellbore 14, below or outwardly in a downhole direction, relative to packing element 37. In an open hole environment, high velocity flow passing from completion string 20 could washout/erode open hole wellbore. In order to reduce erosion, first valve 54 may include a shroud member 56 that is shaped to direct fluids passing from passage 34 outwardly and downwardly from an outlet 58 formed in outer string member 30 and into open hole wellbore 14. In this manner, the fluids do not impact wellbore walls (not separately labeled) and erosion is reduced and/or eliminated.

[0019] In still further accordance with an exemplary embodiment, gravel pack system 23 includes a second valve 63 arranged at openings 44. Second valve 63 may be part of an isolation sleeve 68 provided in passage 34 or could be provided on outer string member 30 and/or inner string member 32. Second valve 63 may be a normally open valve that fluidically exposes open hole wellbore 14 to passage 34 via openings 44 and is arranged outwardly of packing element 37 in an uphole direction. Second valve 63 allows completion fluids 12, such as gravel pack fluids, to enter into passage 34 through openings 44 and bypass first packing element 37 to gravel pack resource bearing zone 16.

[0020] More specifically, after multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system 23 is guided into a desired position in open hole wellbore 14 and packing element 37 is set isolating resource bearing zone 15 from resource bearing zone 16, as shown in FIG. 5. After packing element 37 is set, first valve 54 is opened allowing completion fluids 12 to flow into resource bearing zone 16. Gravel (not separately labeled) in completions fluids 12 accumulates in resource bearing zone 16. After completing gravel packing in resource bearing zone 16, gravel will begin to accumulate in resource bearing zone 15 as shown in FIG. 6. Once gravel packing is complete in resource bearing zone 15 a shifting tool (not

shown), run on the end of a wash pipe (also not shown), may be employed to close second valve 63, as shown in FIG. 4.

[0021] At this point, it should be understood that exemplary embodiments describe a system for performing a multi-zone single treatment gravel pack operation after a zonal isolation operation. In this manner, packing element(s) may be set against non-gravel pack surfaces to provide better sealing. It should be further understood, that gravel packing of multiple zones may be completed in a single operation without the need for shunts, shunted screens, or multiple tool insertion and withdrawal operations. Also, it should be understood, that while described in terms of performing a gravel pack operation, across a single packing element, the multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system may be employed to conduct completion fluids across resource bearing zones 15 and 16 and non-resource bearing zones 17 such as shown in FIGs. 7 and 8 separated by a first packing element 37 and a second packing element 38. Further, it should be understood that in addition to gravel pack fluid, other completion and/or production fluids may be passed into multiple zones without the need for multiple operations

[0022] The multi-zone gravel pack system makes uses of an isolation packing element that allows performing a multi-zone gravel pack treatment in one continuous pumping operation. The packing element is set prior to pumping operation. During gravel pack the sand slurry is able to flow through the set packing element and upon completion of the treatment the valve above the packing element is closed thus isolating adjacent zones from each other without leaks.

[0023] While one or more embodiments have been shown and described, modifications and substitutions may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is to be understood that the present invention has been described by way of illustrations and not limitation.

CLAIMS:

1. A multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system (23) comprising:
 - a tool string (24) including an inner string member (32), an outer string member (30), and a passage (34) arranged between the outer string member (30) and the inner string member (32);
 - at least one selectively deployable packing element (37,38) provided on the outer string member (30);
 - a first valve (54) coupled to one of the outer string member (30) and the inner string member (32) outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element (37,38) in a downhole direction, the first valve (54) selectively fluidically connecting the passage (34) and the open hole wellbore (14), the first valve (54) being configured and disposed to shift from a closed position to an open position; and
 - a second valve (63) coupled to one of the outer string member (30) and the inner string member (32) outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element (37,38) in an uphole direction, the second valve (63) selectively fluidically connecting the passage (34) and the open hole wellbore (14), the second valve (63) being configured and disposed to shift from an open position to a closed position.
2. The multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system (23) according to claim 1, wherein the first valve (54) includes a shroud member (56) configured and disposed to direct fluid outwardly and downwardly from the outer string member (30) into the open hole wellbore (14).
3. The multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system (23) according to claim 1, wherein the outer string member (30) includes a plurality of openings (44).
4. The multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system (23) according to claim 3, wherein the inner string member (32) comprises a selectively shiftable isolation sleeve (68), the second valve (63) being formed on the isolation sleeve (68).
5. The multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system (23) according to claim 1, wherein the at least one packing element (37,38) includes a first packing element (37) and a second packing element (38) spaced from the first packing element (37).
6. A completion system (3) comprising:
 - an uphole portion (4) including at least one pump (8) and a fluid storage system (10) fluidically connected to the at least one pump (8); and

a downhole portion (6) including a completion string (20) extending into an open hole wellbore (14), the completion string (20) including a multi-zone single treatment gravel pack system (23) comprising:

a tool string (24) including an inner string member (32), an outer string member (30), and a passage (34) arranged between the outer string member (30) and the inner string member (32);

at least one selectively deployable packing element (37,38) provided on the outer string member (30);

a first valve (54) coupled to one of the outer string member (30) and the inner string member (32) axially outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element (37,38) in a downhole direction, the first valve (54) selectively fluidically connecting the passage (34) and the open hole wellbore (14) the first valve (54) being configured and disposed to shift from a closed position to an open position; and

a second valve (63) coupled to one of the outer string member (30) and the inner string member (32) axially outwardly of the at least one selectively deployable packing element (37,38) in an uphole direction, the second valve (63) selectively fluidically connecting the passage (34) and the open hole wellbore (14), the second valve (63) being configured and disposed to shift from an open position to a closed position.

7. The completion system (3) according to claim 6, wherein the first valve (54) includes a shroud member (56) configured and disposed to direct fluid outwardly and downwardly from the outer string member (30) into the open hole wellbore (14) to reduce wellbore wall erosion.

8. The completion system (3) according to claim 6, wherein the outer string member (30) includes a plurality of openings (44).

9. The completion system (3) according to claim 8, wherein the inner string member (32) comprises a selectively shiftable isolation sleeve (68), the second valve (63) being formed on the isolation sleeve (68).

10. The completion system (3) according to claim 6, wherein the at least one packing element (37,38) includes a first packing element (37) and a second packing element (38) spaced from the first packing element (37).

FIG. 1

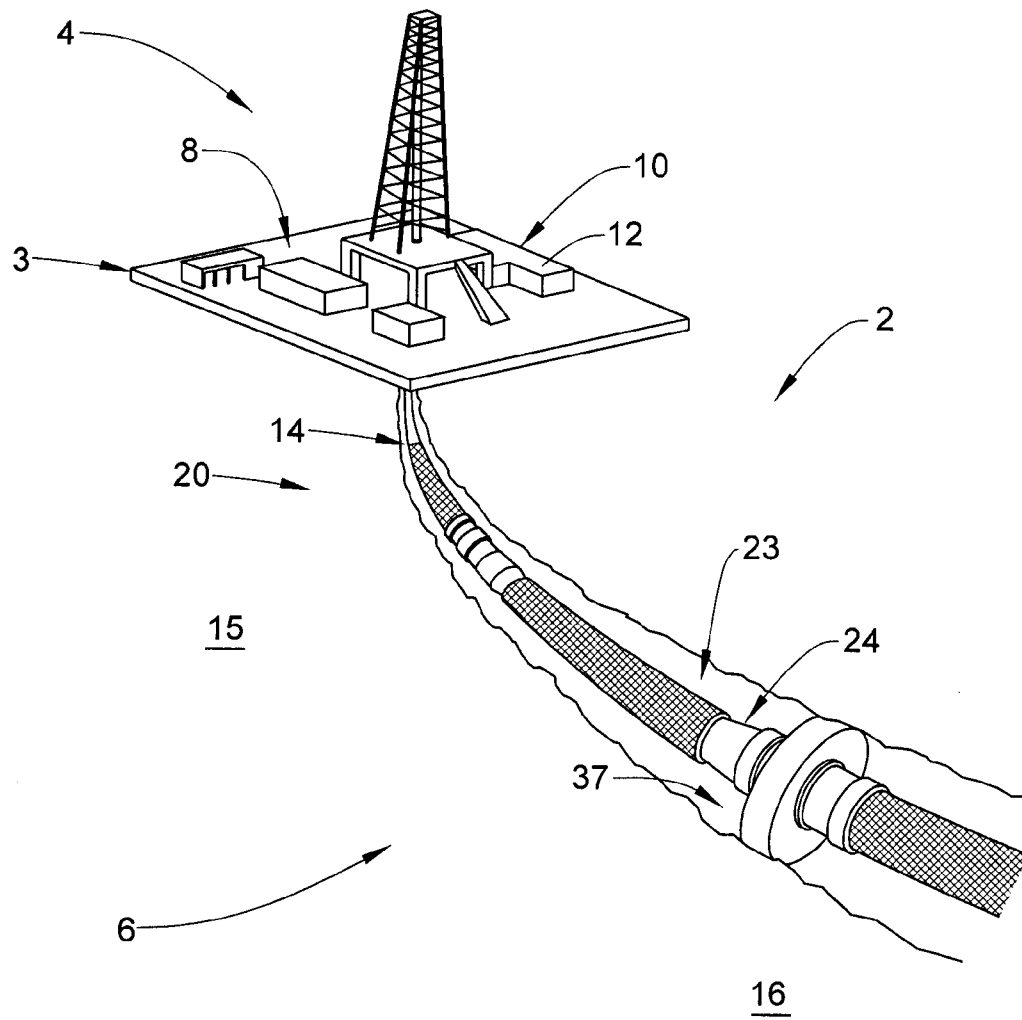


FIG. 2A

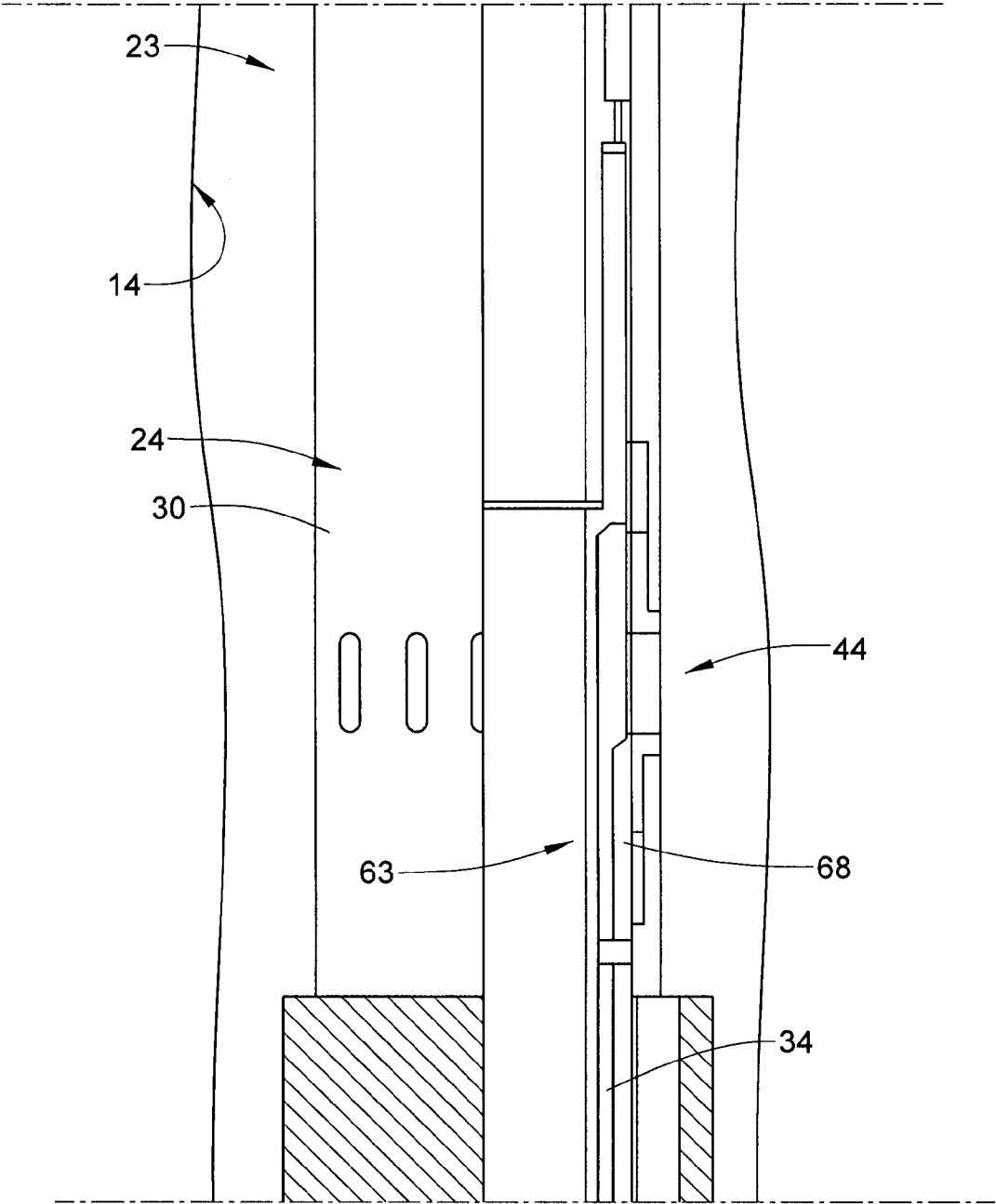
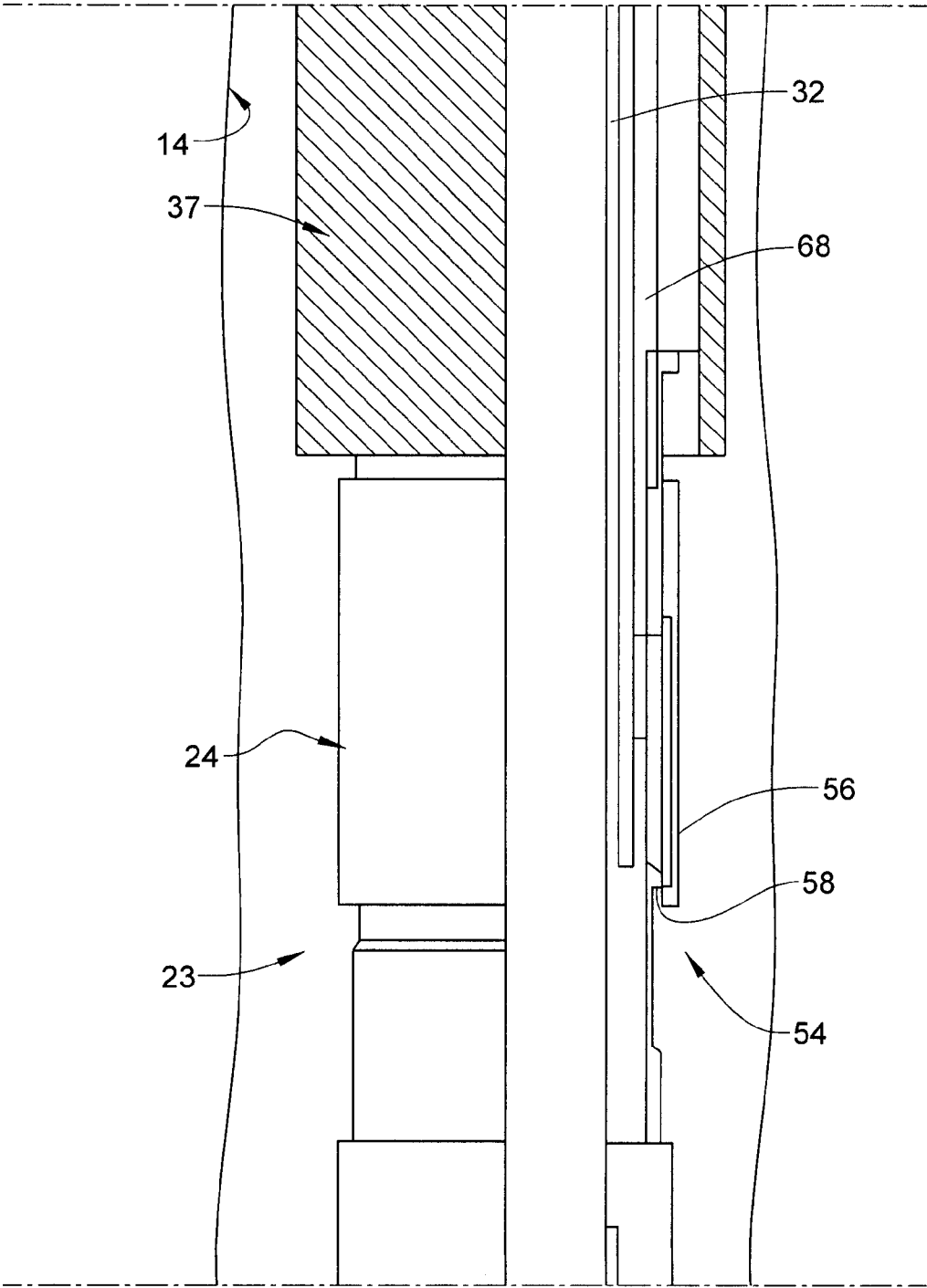


FIG. 2B



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FIG. 3

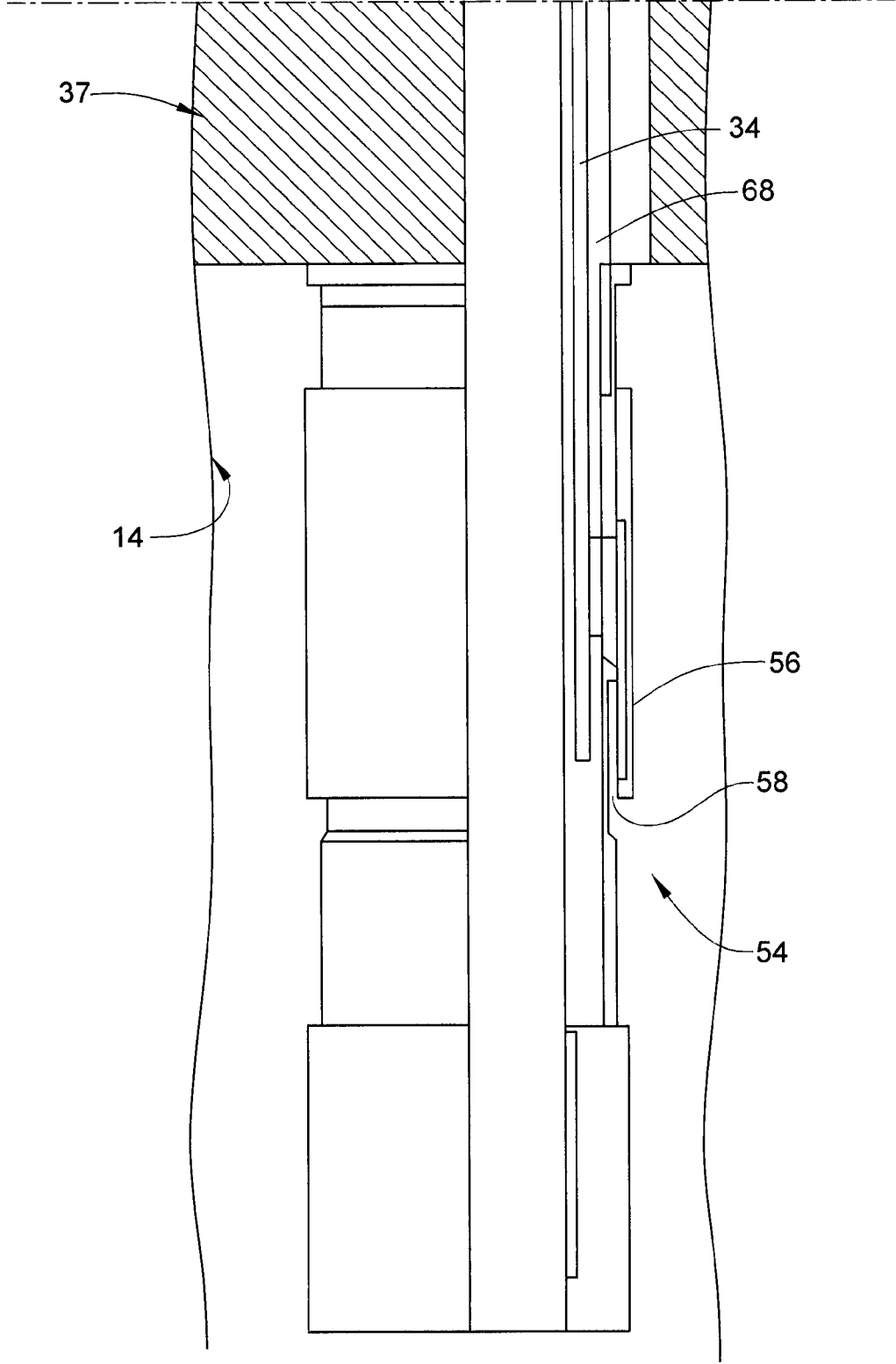
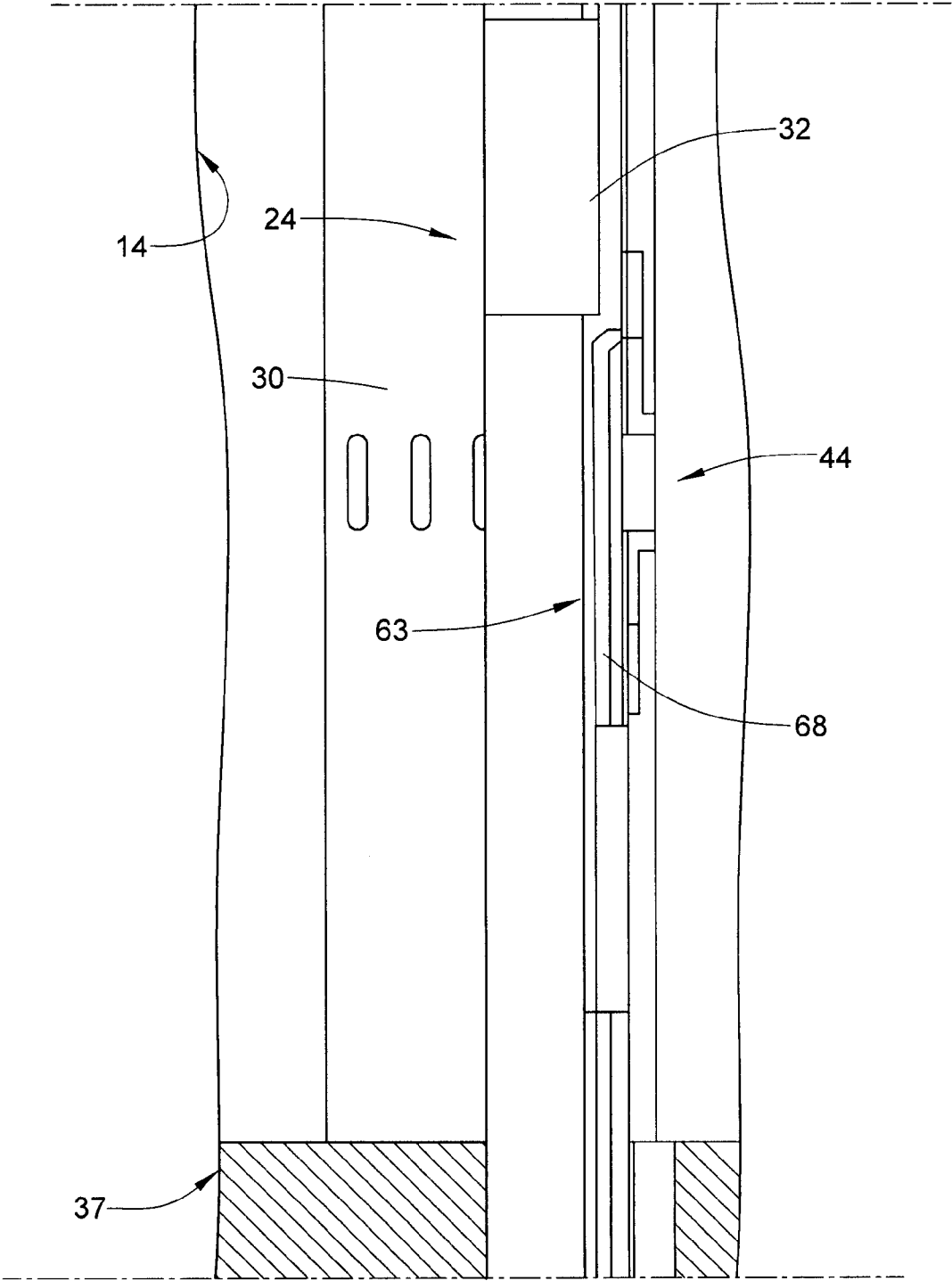
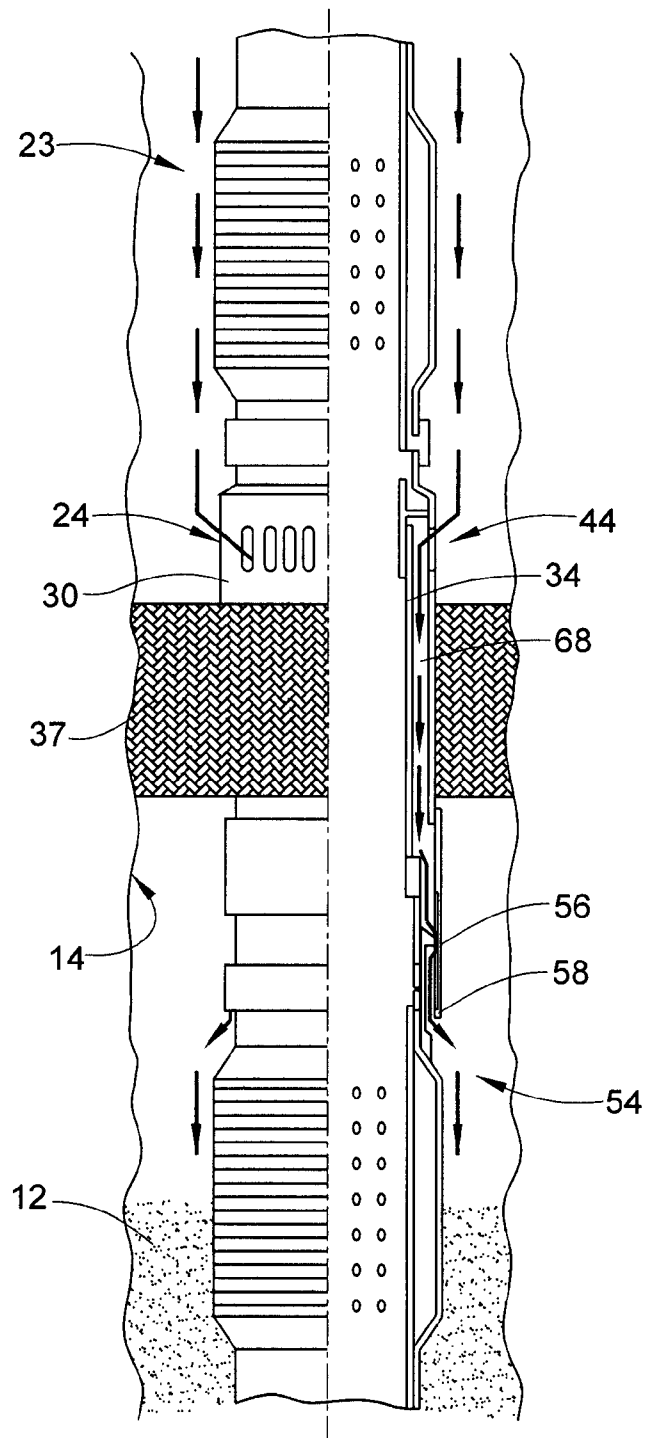


FIG. 4



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FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

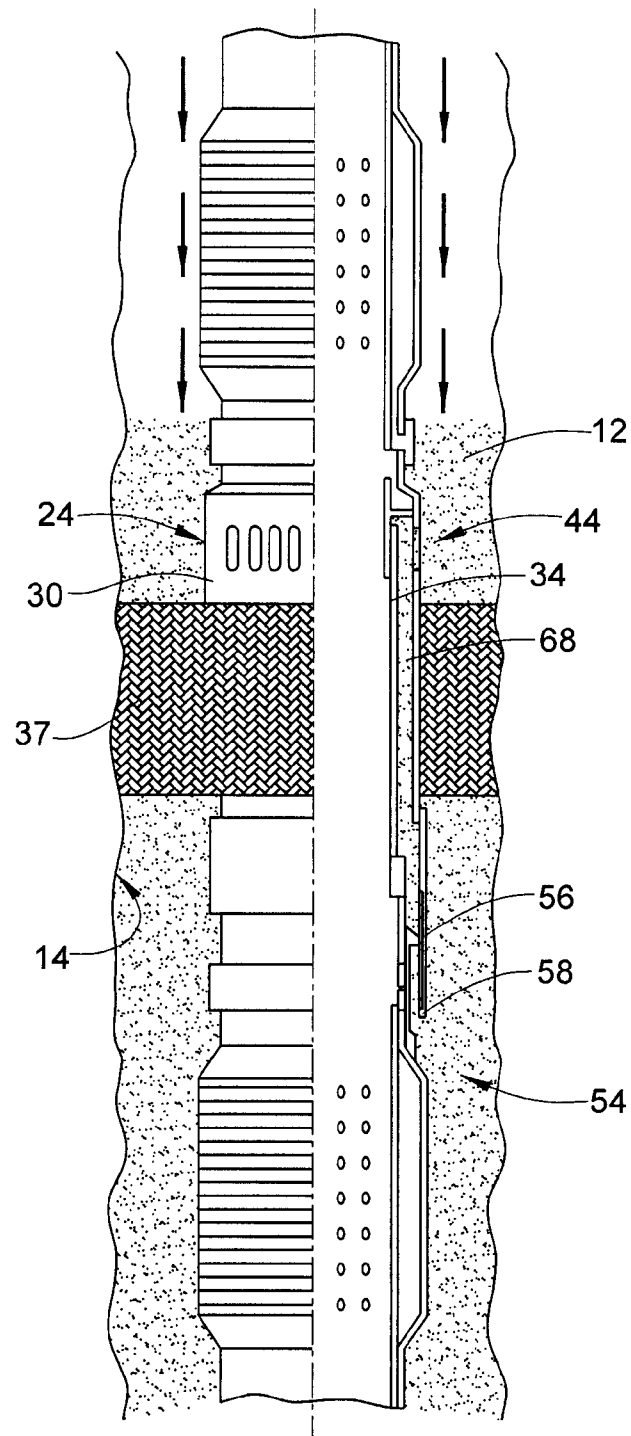


FIG. 7

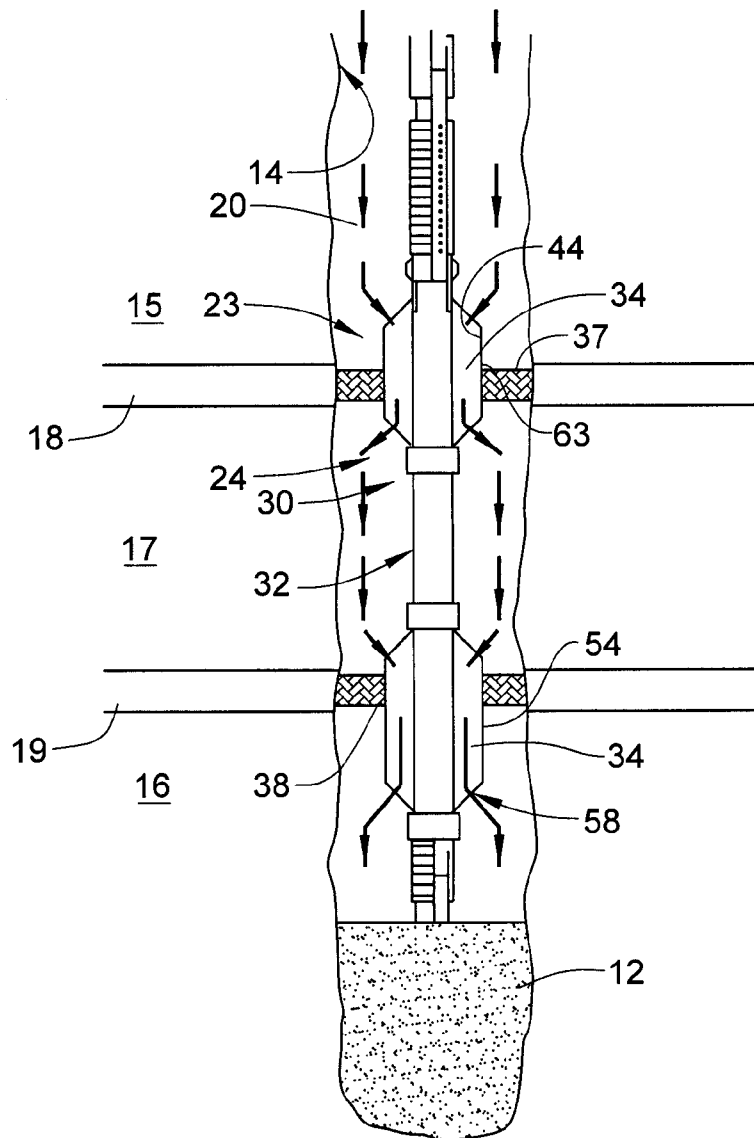
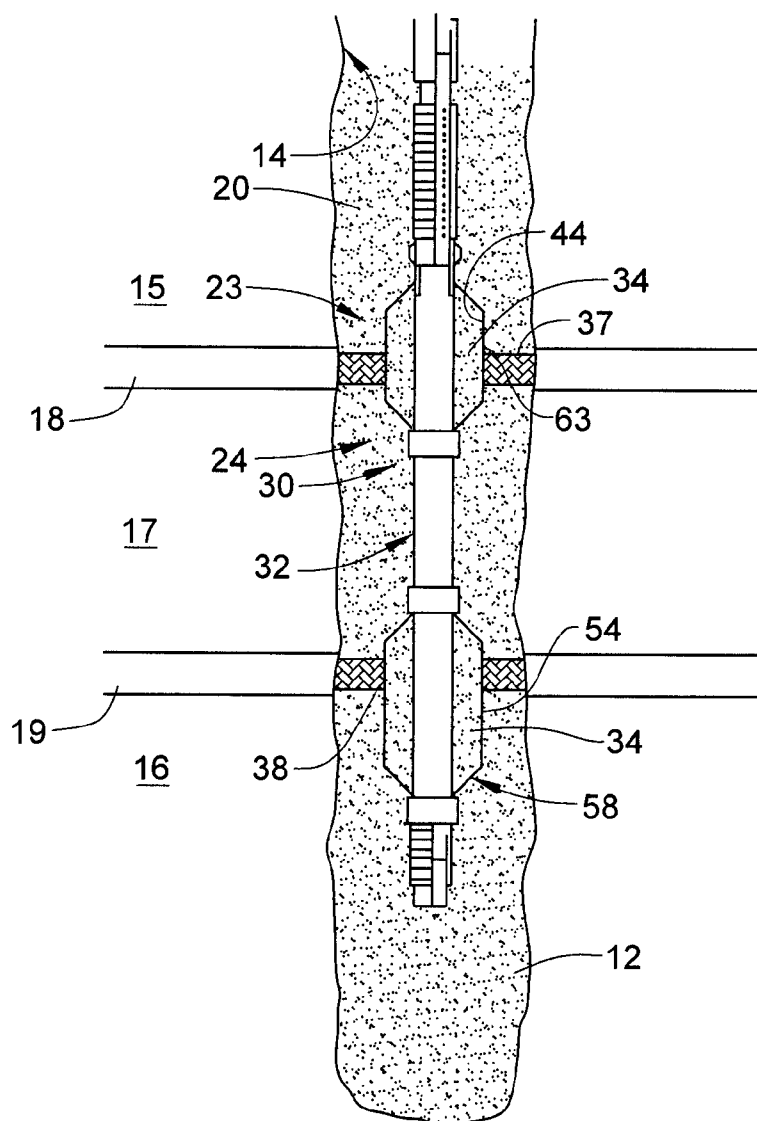


FIG. 8



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2015/036865**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****E21B 43/04(2006.01)i, E21B 23/00(2006.01)i, E21B 34/06(2006.01)i**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

E21B 43/04; E21B 37/00; E21B 23/00; E21B 34/06

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: seal, packing, gravel, valve, passage, wellbore, fluid, tank, pump, system

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2008-0110620 A1 (PENNO, ANDREW D.) 15 May 2008	1-5
Y	See paragraphs [0004]-[0008], [0025]-[0043] and figures 1A-1D, 2, 4-5.	6-10
Y	US 6640897 B1 (MISSELBROOK et al.) 04 November 2003	6-10
	See column 8, lines 31-54; and figure 27.	
A	US 2004-0069489 A1 (CORBETT, THOMAS G.) 15 April 2004	1-10
	See paragraphs [0022]-[0023], [0025]-[0027]; and figures 7-12.	
A	EP 0430389 A1 (HALLIBURTON COMPANY) 05 June 1991	1-10
	See column 3, lines 2-58; column 4, lines 1-57; and figures 1A-1B, 7-8.	
A	US 5577559 A (VOLL et al.) 26 November 1996	1-10
	See column 2, lines 54-67; and figures 1A-1C.	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

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"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Date of mailing of the international search report

07 September 2015 (07.09.2015)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2015/036865

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