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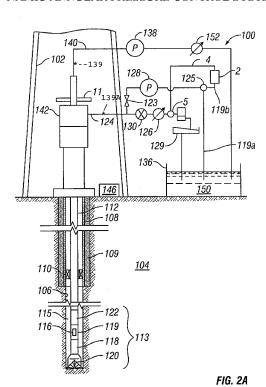
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR DETERMINING FORMATION FLUID CONTROL EVENTS IN A BOREHOLE USING A DYNAMIC ANNULAR PRESSURE CONTROL SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method for determining existence of a borehole fluid control event by controlling formation pressure during the drilling of a borehole includes selectively pumping a drilling fluid through a drill string extended into a borehole, out a drill bit at the bottom end of the drill string, and into an annular space between drill string and the borehole. The drilling fluid leaves the annular space proximate the surface. Existence of a well control event is determined when at least one of the following events occurs: the rate of the selective pumping remains substantially constant and the annular space pressure increases, and the rate of the selective pumping remains substantially constant and the annular space pressure decreases.

Published:

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- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

International application No. PCT/US2010/045594

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

E21B 43/12(2006.01)i, E21B 21/08(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 43/12; E21B 7/00; E21B 47/00; E21B 44/00; E21B 21/08

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: determining existence, drilling, annular space, pressure

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

1,5,9-12 1,5,9-12
1,5,9-12
1,5,9-12
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	- 1	Further	documents	are	listed	in	the	continua	tion	of	Box	C
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See patent family annex.

- * Special categories of cited documents:
- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- "&" document member of the same patent family

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Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2010/045594

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. Claims Nos.: 2-4,6-8 because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
Claim 2 refers to itself and claims 3,4 and 6-8 are dependent on claim 2. Hence, claims 2-4 snd 6-8 do not clearly define the matter for which protection is sought (PCT Article 6).
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment
of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is
restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2010/045594

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