



- (51) International Patent Classification:
E21B 43/22 (2006.01) *E21B 34/06* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2013/051234
- (22) International Filing Date:
19 July 2013 (19.07.2013)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
13/564,236 1 August 2012 (01.08.2012) US
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **TELEMETRIC CHEMICAL INJECTION ASSEMBLY**

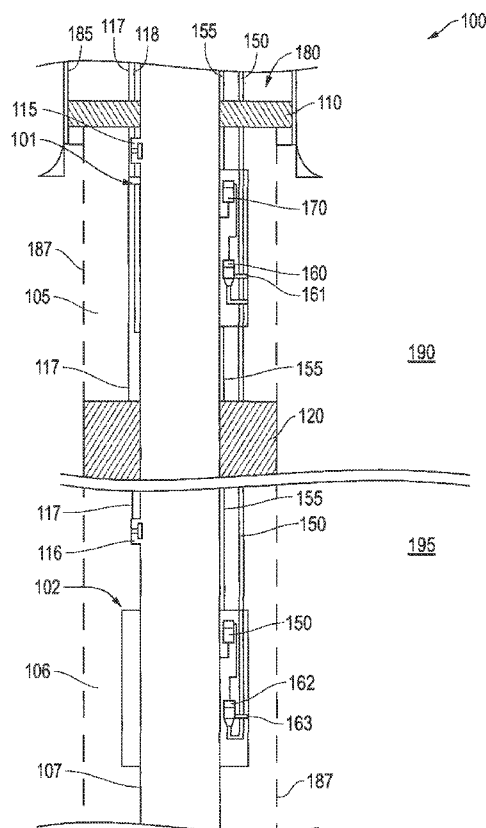


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A chemical injection assembly with telemetric capacity and a single fluid injection line capable of reaching multiple downhole injection points. The assembly may take advantage of downhole power telemetry modules so as to intelligently power and direct actuator valves at any of a number of different injection points. So, for example, the need for cumbersome and expensive usage of different delivery lines dedicated to serve different delivery points with the same fluid may be avoided.



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(81) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD,

ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

TELEMETRIC CHEMICAL INJECTION ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND

[0001] Exploring, drilling and completing hydrocarbon wells are generally complicated, time consuming and ultimately very expensive endeavors. As a result, over the years increased attention has been paid to monitoring and maintaining the health of such wells. Significant premiums are placed on maximizing the total hydrocarbon recovery, recovery rate, and extending the overall life of the well as much as possible. Thus, logging applications for monitoring of well conditions play a significant role in the life of the well. Similarly, significant importance is placed on well intervention applications, such as clean-out techniques which may be utilized to remove debris from the well so as to ensure unobstructed hydrocarbon recovery.

[0002] In addition to interventional applications, the well is often outfitted with chemical injection equipment to enhance ongoing recovery efforts without the requirement of intervention. For example, most of the well may be defined by a smooth steel casing that is configured for the rapid uphole transfer of hydrocarbons and other fluids from a formation. However, a buildup of irregular occlusive scale, wax and other debris may occur at the inner surface of the casing or tubing and other architecture so as to restrict flow. Such debris may even form over perforations in the casing, screen, or slotted pipe thereby also hampering hydrocarbon flow into the main borehole of the well from the surrounding formation.

[0003] In order to address the potential for scale and other buildup as noted above, time consuming interventional applications may be avoided through use of a circulating chemical injection system. With such systems in place, a metered amount of chemical mixture, such as a hydrochloric acid mix, may be near continuously circulated downhole to help prevent such buildup. This equipment includes an injection line that

may be run from surface and directed at different downhole points of interest such as within production tubing, at a production screen or into formation fluid prior to entering the noted tubing. Regardless, the need to halt production or run expensive interventions in order to address undesirable buildup may be largely eliminated.

[0004] Unfortunately, unlike more interactive interventions, chemical injection faces a variety of limitations in terms of delivery. For example, the permanently installed hydraulic line generally terminates at a port below an area of concern such as the indicated production screen. However, this delivery is targeted at a single release point with the system relying on circulation of the delivered chemical mix in order to reach any other locations. Thus, even though a variety of locations may be of potential concern, only the target location is ensured of receiving the intended mix with a notable degree of precision.

[0005] With the limitations of single port delivery in mind, there are circumstances in which the delivery line is outfitted with multiple delivery ports such that delivery to more than one location is not limited to sole reliance on circulation. However, in these situations, the versatility of the delivery nevertheless remains limited. For example, where delivery is directed at multiple production zones, there may be particular zones of concern at one point in time and other zones of interest at other times. Yet, with a single delivery line available, each port delivers a predetermined rate of chemical mix when directed from surface equipment. That is to say, different ports at different locations are generally unable to be activated while others are left closed. Rather, by way of a single delivery line, all ports are generally on or all are turned off.

[0006] Of course, it may be possible to provide a dedicated delivery line for each port which runs from surface equipment. In this manner, each line may be independently turned on or off at surface so as to allow for downhole ports to be independently activated. However, this type of system would require a dedicated

delivery line for each and every port, thus, dramatically increasing completions equipment and installation expense.

[0007] As an alternative to providing a dedicated line running to each port where multiple ports are utilized, isolation techniques may be employed. That is, as in the case of stimulation and other zonally directed applications, different downhole zones may be isolated for sake of targeted delivery. In such cases, packers or other isolating downhole features may be employed as a means of targeting chemical injection delivery from multiple ports. For example, one downhole region may be isolated in a manner that prevents chemical delivery thereto while allowing such delivery elsewhere. Of course, again, shutting down production for sake of attaining isolation results in applications that are no more cost-effective or time saving than the original types of interventions which chemical injection systems are configured to help avoid.

[0008] Ultimately, dedicated delivery lines and isolation techniques are usually avoided. As a matter of time and cost, such options remain largely impractical. Thus, operators are generally left with reliance on single or multi-point chemical injection delivery which lacks any real measure of control over location specific delivery and/or adjustment thereto.

SUMMARY

[0009] A “smart” chemical injection assembly utilizing telemetry is provided. The assembly includes a mandrel housing coupled to a downhole tubular with an electric line that runs from an oilfield surface to the mandrel in a land well or offshore well. A fluid injection line is provided that also runs from the oilfield surface to the mandrel in a land well or offshore well. Further, a power telemetry module is coupled to the electric line. Thus, an electric actuator that is coupled to the injection line may be provided for governing fluid injection. Additionally, one or both of the module and the actuator may be secured within the mandrel housing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] Fig. 1 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a telemetric chemical injection assembly disposed in a well.

[0011] Fig. 2A is an enlarged view of an embodiment of an injection sub of the assembly of Fig. 1 and corresponding downhole fluid flow.

[0012] Fig. 2B is an enlarged view of an alternate embodiment of an injection sub of the assembly with alternate corresponding downhole fluid flow.

[0013] Fig. 3 is an overview of an oilfield employing an embodiment of the assembly of Fig. 1 for tailored regulation of injection fluids at multiple well zones.

[0014] Fig. 4A is an alternate embodiment of the injection sub of Fig. 2B, equipped to accommodate a secondary injection line.

[0015] Fig. 4B is another alternate embodiment of the injection sub, outfitted with multiple injection valves.

[0016] Fig. 5 is a flow-chart summarizing an embodiment of employing a telemetric chemical injection assembly within a well.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] Embodiments are described with reference to certain configurations of completions hardware that make use of chemical injection assemblies. In particular, completions are depicted and described which utilize a chemical injection assembly to help prevent scale and other buildup in a manner that may be telemetrically directed. For example, different injection points in different well locations may be independently directed from an oilfield surface even though a common injection line may be utilized. Of course, a variety of different completion architectures may benefit from utilization of such an injection assembly. For example, even a system utilizing a single injection point may benefit from telemetrically directed injection. Regardless, an injection sub (or mandrel housing) is provided that is equipped to accommodate either, or both, of an

actuator valve to govern injection and a power module. Thus, the valve may be directly and independently powered and controlled via telemetric and fluid injection lines running thereto from surface.

[0018] Referring now to Fig. 1, a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a telemetric chemical injection assembly 100 is depicted within a well 180. In the embodiment shown, the assembly 100 makes up a portion of completions hardware that is disposed below casing 185 and a production packer 110. Further, the assembly 100 is positioned across multiple production regions 190, 195. More specifically, a zonal isolation packer 120 is provided about a production tubular 107. Thus, separate annular spaces 105, 106 adjacent the tubular 107 may be zonally isolated from one another whereas a common fluid channel 103 is defined within the tubular 107.

[0019] Zonal isolation at production regions 190, 195 as described above may allow for tailored recovery of production fluids. For example, the tubular 107 may be outfitted with a separate flow control valve 115, 116, exposed to the isolated annular space 105, 106. Thus, a hydraulic or other suitable control line 117 may be utilized to independently open or close the valves 115, 116. As such, production through a slotted liner 187, screen, perforated liner or similar hardware where utilized, at either formation region 190, 195 may be regulated via the open or closed valve 115, 116.

[0020] Continuing with reference to Fig. 1, each zonally isolated annular space 105, 106 is equipped with its own mandrel housing or injection sub 101, 102. As such, a chemical injection fluid mix may be directed at each space 105, 106, the liner 187 or other downhole hardware so as to impede production inhibiting buildup. In one embodiment, the mix may even be directed internally at the tubular channel 103 (see Fig. 2B). Regardless, while separate injection points 161, 163 are provided, independent control over the separate valves 160, 162 at each point 161, 163 is a different matter. That is, in the embodiment shown, the valves 160, 162 may be an

electrically powered actuator of plunger, gas lift, solenoid valve, electric motor or other metering variety. Thus, rather than opening or closing alone, more precise delivery of chemical injection mix may be achieved. So, for example, the valves may include fully opened, fully closed and variable choke positions.

[0021] Further, while it might be possible to supply each valve 160, 162 with its own dedicated fluid line which may be controlled from the oilfield surface 300, this may be extremely cost prohibitive (see Fig. 3). Therefore, the embodiment of Fig. 1 reveals the use of a single injection line 150 routed to each valve 160, 162 in combination with a telemetric line 155 so as to more fully and practically take advantage of such tailored delivery.

[0022] The telemetric line 155 of Fig. 1 may be a conventional electric line or other suitable communication line for downhole use. In the embodiment shown, the line 155 is routed through a power telemetry module 170, 171 in order to supply the power for independently opening or closing each valve 160, 162 as directed. These modules 170, 171 are shown disposed within the subs 101, 102. However, in other embodiments, alternative locations may be utilized. Further, such modules 170, 171 may be made available for sake of monitoring and communicating downhole conditions such as pressure and/or temperature. Thus, an added feature of such modules 170, 171 may now be to advantageously serve as a supportive platform for independent powerable control over each valve 160, 162 in a “smart” fashion.

[0023] Referring now to Fig. 2A, an enlarged view of an embodiment of one of the injection subs 102 of the assembly of Fig. 1 is shown. In this depiction, fluid flow in the area is apparent. More specifically, production fluid 250 is shown moving uphole within the channel 103 of the production tubular 107 whereas injection fluid 200 is shown released from the valve 162 at the injection point 163. So, for example, the injection fluid 200 may serve to prevent occlusive buildup at the well formation

interface of the slotted liner 187 and the depicted production region 195. Thus, when the flow control valve 116 is opened, production fluid 250 may flow substantially freely into the noted channel 103. Further, in one embodiment, an operator or control unit 310 may ensure that the flow control valve 116 is in an open or ‘choked’ position whenever the injection valve 162 is in an open position (see Fig. 3).

[0024] Continuing with reference to Fig. 2A, with added reference to Fig. 1, a shiftable member 216 of the flow control valve 116 may be directed to open the valve 116 by a conventional control line 117. For example, a conventional power/data cable may be utilized. However, opening of the injection valve 162 for sake of chemical injection delivery is two-fold. That is, the valve 162 may be supplied with the noted injection fluid 200 by way of the noted injection line 150. Further, tailored control over opening and/or the degree of opening of the valve 162 may be directed by another line (i.e. the telemetric line 155). While the injection and telemetry functions are split between two separate lines 150, 155, this type of layout allows for the use of a single injection line 150 across multiple subs 101, 102. That is, a tailored opening and/or closing of valves such as the injection valve 162 may be independently controlled. Therefore, even though only a single injection line 150 is utilized, the operator is not limited to an unintelligent injection of either all injection points 161, 163 open or all closed.

[0025] As described above, the independent control over chemical injection delivery is directed through a telemetric line 155. This may be a conventional electronic or other suitable cable. Once more, the line 155 may be routed from surface to a power telemetry module 171 as detailed above. That is, the module 171 may serve a function of acquiring and relaying data relative to temperature, pressure and perhaps other location-based well characteristics (note the exposed outlet to the tubular channel 103). However, the module 171 may also advantageously serve the added function

providing power and communicative relay to the injection valve 162 (note the electrical branch 255 of the line 155 routed to the valve 162). Thus, independent control over the valve 162 may be exercised from the oilfield surface 300. Indeed, with multiple modules 170, 171 available, this same type of telemetric layout may be repeated at multiple downhole subs 101, 102 (see Fig. 1). As such, independent “intelligent” control over each valve 160, 162 by way of a single main telemetric line 155 may be provided (see Fig. 3).

[0026] Referring now to Fig. 2B, an enlarged view of an alternate embodiment of the injection sub 102 is depicted. In this embodiment, the injection valve 162 and injection point 163 are reoriented so as to deliver injection fluid 200 within the channel 103 of the production tubing 107 as opposed to at the surrounding annular space 106. For example, this may be advantageous where the sub 102 is located further uphole adjacent well casing 185. That is, the fluid 200 may be directed at impeding buildup at internal tubular components as opposed to the slotted liner 187 as shown in Fig. 2A. Regardless, the same intelligent, independently controllable manner of injection may be directed from the oilfield surface 300 of Fig. 3.

[0027] Continuing now with reference to Fig. 3, an overview of an oilfield 300 is shown, whereat an embodiment of the assembly 100 of Fig. 1 is disposed within a well 180. More specifically, a more schematic view of the assembly 100 is shown allowing for tailored regulation of injection fluid 200 at different downhole production regions 190, 195. More specifically, production and chemical injection are both closed off relative the more downhole region 195. For example, where water is being produced or for any number of other reasons, a determination may be made to effectively shut off the region 195. Nevertheless, a determination to continue recovery of production fluids from points below the region 195 may also be made. Further, and perhaps more

significantly in terms of the depicted figure, a determination may similarly be made to continue recovery and chemical injection at the other region 190.

[0028] In the embodiment of Fig. 3, chemical injection fluid 200 is delivered in the vicinity of one region 190 so as to inhibit buildup at the slotted liner or screen or perforated liner 187 as described above. This same fluid 200 is recovered within the tubular 107 along with production fluids 250 for transport uphole. The ability of the assembly 100 to efficiently recover these fluids 200, 250 at one region 190 while keeping injection and recovery closed off from another region 195 is rendered practical and effective by the availability of cooperative valves 160, 162 and modules 170, 171 as detailed hereinabove (see Fig. 1). Indeed, an electrically actuated plunger type valve 160, 162 in conjunction with a readily available power telemetry module 170, 171 may be particularly beneficial in allowing for the construction of such an assembly 100.

[0029] Continuing with reference to Fig. 3, an operator may intelligently direct chemical injection as detailed above through the use of surface equipment. More specifically, a control unit 310 may be provided for sake of directing operations, including the exercise of control over the telemetric line 155 and downhole valves as detailed above. Further, a chemical mix tank 320 may be provided for supplying of injection fluid 200 to the injection line 150. Thus, later recovery of injection 200 and production 250 fluids may ultimately be routed through the well head 330 and a production line 340 for processing.

[0030] Referring now to Fig. 4A, an alternate embodiment of the injection sub 102 and assembly 100 of Fig. 2B is shown. In this embodiment, a secondary line 400 is routed to the location of the injection valve 162. In this manner, a fluid other than the chemical injection fluid 200 may also be delivered through the valve 162. That is, while fluid of any practical type may be directed through the injection line 150, there may be circumstances in which different fluid types are segregated from one another.

For example, an acid injection type of stimulation fluid may be delivered through the secondary line 400 at certain targeted points in time whereas the noted injection fluid 200 is delivered through the injection line 150 on a more regular or continuous basis.

[0031] Keeping fluids separated from one another may be desirable where the different fluids serve different applications, for example, different chemical injection and stimulation applications as noted above. However, it is worth noting that the added secondary line 400 is not required for sake of delivery to different injection points 161, 163 (see Fig. 1). Indeed, as depicted in Fig. 4A, even though separate fluid types and lines 150, 400 are provided, the same injection point 163 is ultimately utilized.

[0032] Referring now to Fig. 4B, another alternate embodiment of the injection sub 102 is depicted. In this case, the sub 102 is outfitted with multiple injection valves 162, 462, 463 all drawing actuation from the same power telemetry module 171. For example, note the electrical branch 255 running to the primary injection valve 162 as detailed above, as well as a secondary branch 455 splitting off to other secondary injection valves 462, 463.

[0033] In the embodiment of Fig. 4B, the availability of multiple valves 162, 462, 463 allows for targeting of different delivery locations. That is, embodiments such as that depicted in Fig. 1 reveal different subs 101, 102 at different depths being independently serviceable via a single injection line 150. However, in Fig. 4B another embodiment is shown that reveals the possibility of also servicing different locations at roughly the same depth of the same sub 102. More specifically, the primary injection valve 162 is shown servicing the channel 103 at the interior of the production tubular 107 similar to the configuration of Fig. 2B. Further, the secondary valves 462, 463 are shown simultaneously servicing the annular space 106 similar to the configuration of Fig. 2A.

[0034] Referring now to Fig. 5, a flow-chart is shown summarizing an embodiment of employing a telemetric chemical injection assembly within a well. Namely, with the assembly installed as indicated at 510, a chemical injection fluid may be selectively delivered through a line to any one of many injection points downhole (see 530). Subsequently, over the same line, the fluid may be delivered to another of the points as indicated at 550. Once more, as noted at 570, these same injection points may be serviced by a secondary line for delivery of another fluid such as an acid-based stimulation fluid. Ultimately, over the course of such fluid delivery applications, the fluids may be recovered with production up to an oilfield surface as indicated at 590.

[0035] Embodiments described hereinabove include a telemetric or “smart” chemical injection assembly which is able to provide targeted chemical injection at multiple downhole depths or locations in a tailored manner. That is, without the requirement of a multitude of individually dedicated chemical injection lines, multiple delivery locations may be independently regulated for delivery from an oilfield surface. Further, no intervening isolations are required in order to achieve such targeted or tailored delivery. Indeed, one downhole location may be opened and serviced while another remains turned off and vice versa. This may be achieved in a cost-effective manner through the use of available power telemetry modules.

[0036] The preceding description has been presented with reference to presently preferred embodiments. Persons skilled in the art and technology to which these embodiments pertain will appreciate that alterations and changes in the described structures and methods of operation may be practiced without meaningfully departing from the principle, and scope of these embodiments. Regardless, the foregoing description should not be read as pertaining only to the precise structures described and shown in the accompanying drawings, but rather should be read as consistent with and as support for the following claims, which are to have their fullest and fairest scope.

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A telemetric chemical injection assembly for disposal in a well at an oilfield, the assembly comprising:

an injection sub;

an actuator valve disposed within said sub to govern fluid injection therefrom;

a power and telemetry module coupled to said valve;

a telemetric line configured to run from a surface of the oilfield to said module;

and

a fluid injection line configured to run from a surface of the oilfield to said valve for the fluid injection.

2. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said module is disposed within said sub.

3. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said module serves as a monitor for well conditions.

4. The assembly of claim 3 wherein the well conditions include one of pressure and temperature.

5. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said actuator valve is electrically powered via said module.

6. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said actuator valve is selected from a group consisting of a plunger valve, a sliding sleeve, a gas lift valve, a solenoid valve, an electric motor and a metering valve.
7. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fluid injection line is configured to supply a chemical injection fluid mix to said valve.
8. The assembly of claim 1 further comprising a secondary line configured to run from a surface of the oilfield to said valve for supplying of a secondary fluid.
9. The assembly of claim 8 wherein the secondary fluid is a stimulation fluid.
10. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said sub and said actuator valve are a first sub and a first actuator valve, the assembly further comprising a second actuator valve coupled to said injection line disposed within a second sub at a different depth of the well than said first sub.
11. The assembly of claim 1 wherein said valve is a first valve, the assembly further comprising a second valve coupled to said injection line within the sub.
12. A telemetric chemical injection system comprising for disposal in a well at an oilfield, the system comprising:
 - a tubular with a channel running therethrough and disposed within the well, the well defined by multiple formation regions;
 - a zonal isolation packer defining a first annulus thereabove and a second

annulus therebelow, said packer positioned at a depth between at least portions of the regions;

a first injection sub and power module coupled to said tubular within the first annulus;

a second injection sub and power module coupled to said tubular within the second annulus;

a telemetric line configured to run from a surface of the oilfield to said modules; and

a fluid injection line configured to run from the oilfield surface to said subs.

13. The system of claim 12 further comprising:

a first flow control valve incorporated into said tubular at a location of the first annulus; and

a second flow control valve incorporated into said tubular at a location of the second annulus.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein said subs comprise actuator valves for delivery of fluid from the fluid injection line.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the delivery is directed at one of the channel and a formation interface with the well.

16. A method of delivering chemical injection fluid to a well at an oilfield, the method comprising:

directing an actuator valve to open from a surface of the oilfield over a telemetric line running therefrom:

powering said directing through a power telemetry module coupled to the telemetric line and the valve; and

supplying the fluid for the delivering through a fluid injection line coupled to the valve.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the actuator valve is a first actuator valve, said directing further comprising maintaining closure of a second actuator valve coupled to the telemetric and fluid injection lines.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the actuator valve is a first actuator valve, said directing further comprising opening a second actuator valve coupled to the telemetric and fluid injection lines.

19. The method of claim 16 further comprising supplying another fluid through a secondary injection line coupled to the valve for another application.

20. The method of claim 16 further comprising recovering fluids including the injection fluid through production to a surface at the oilfield.

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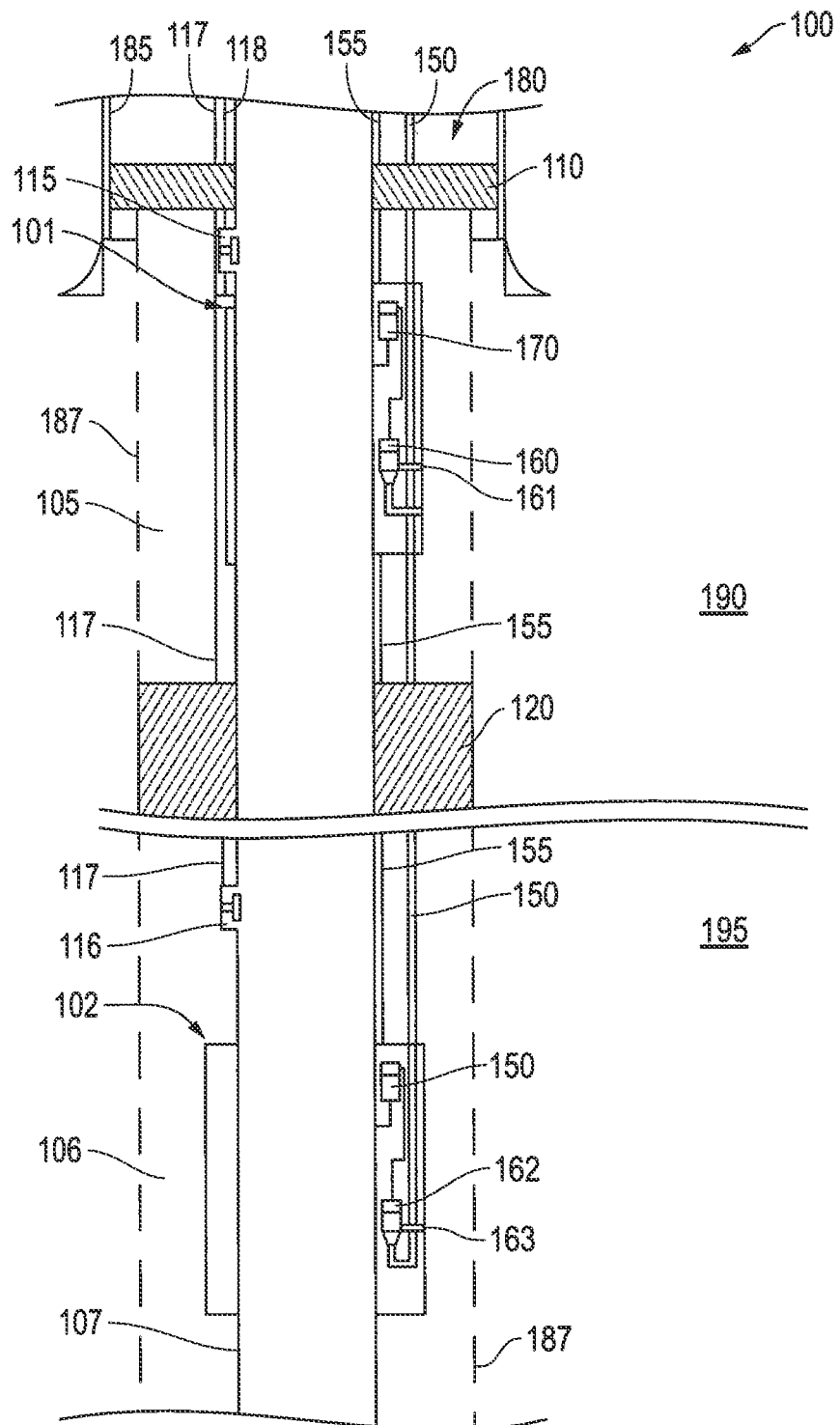


FIG. 1

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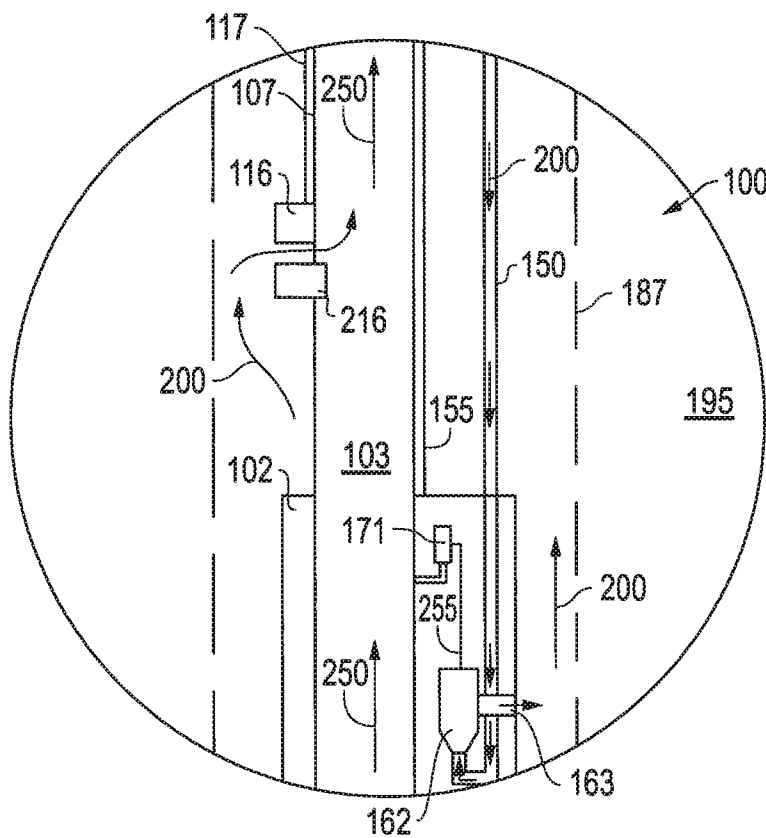


FIG. 2A

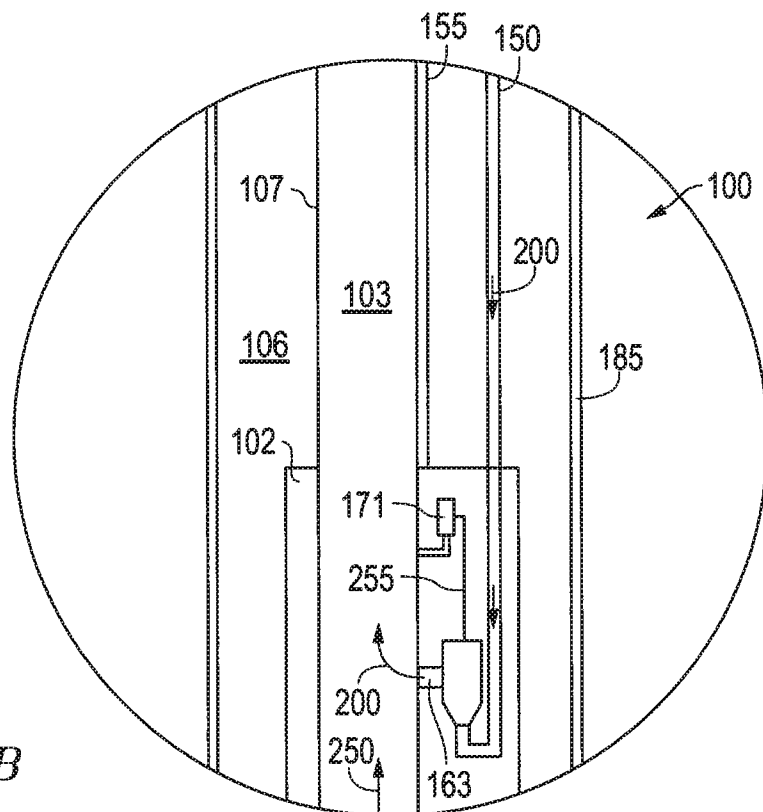


FIG. 2B

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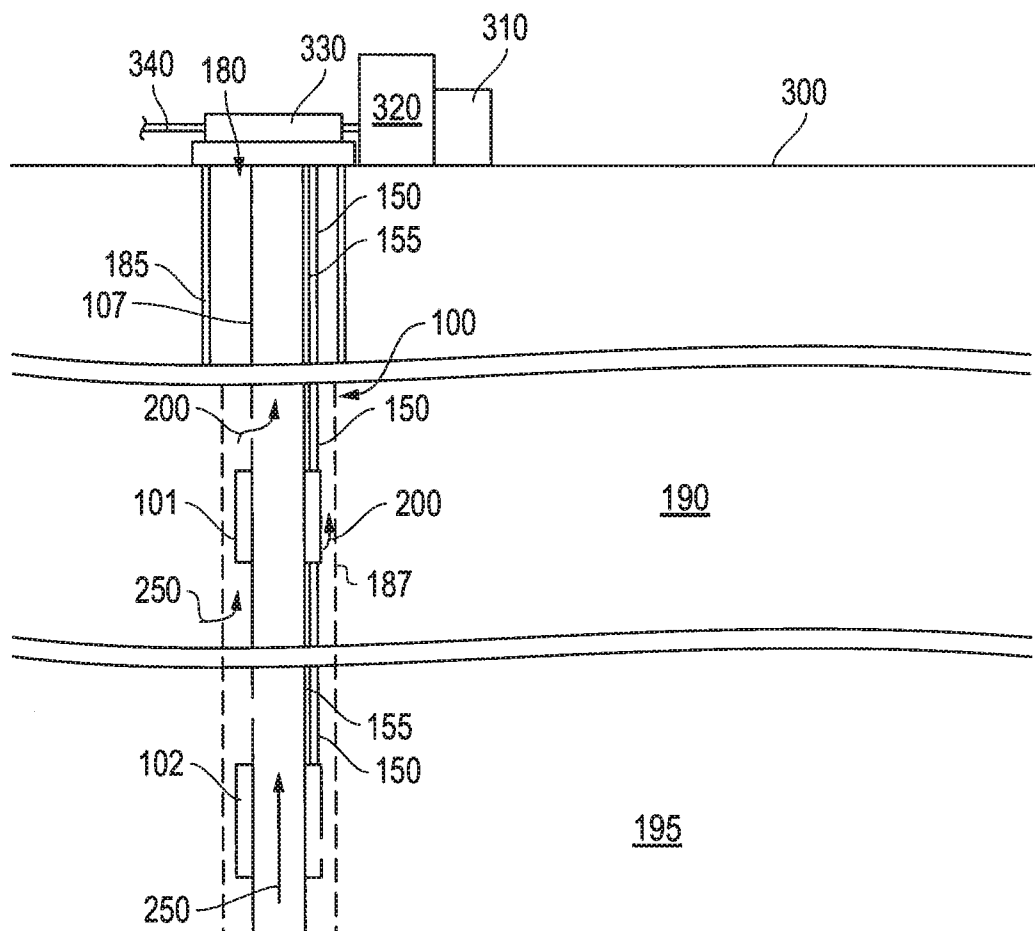


FIG. 3

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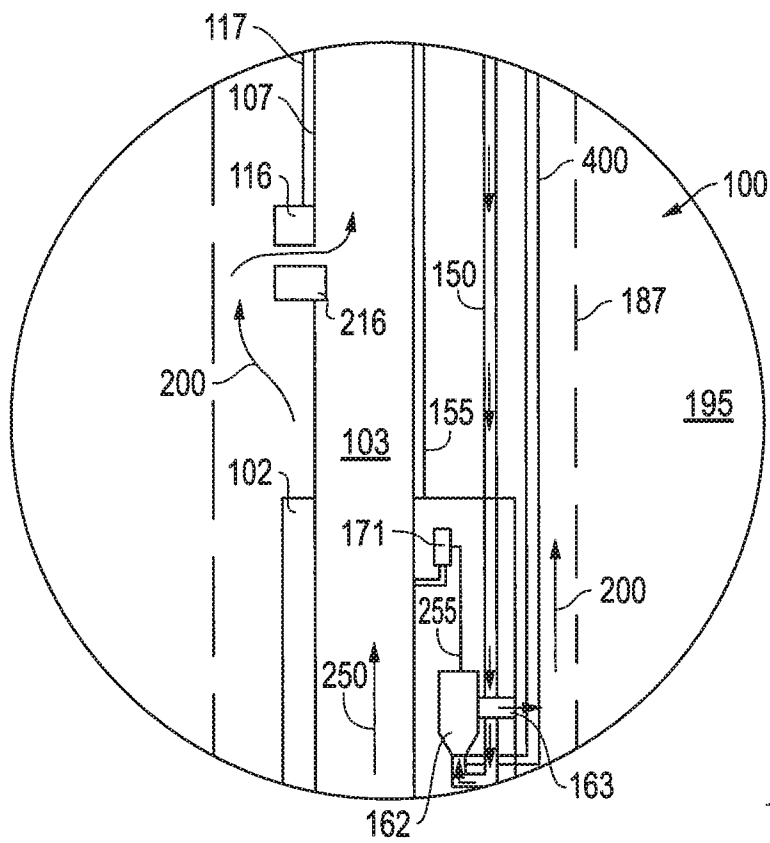


FIG. 4A

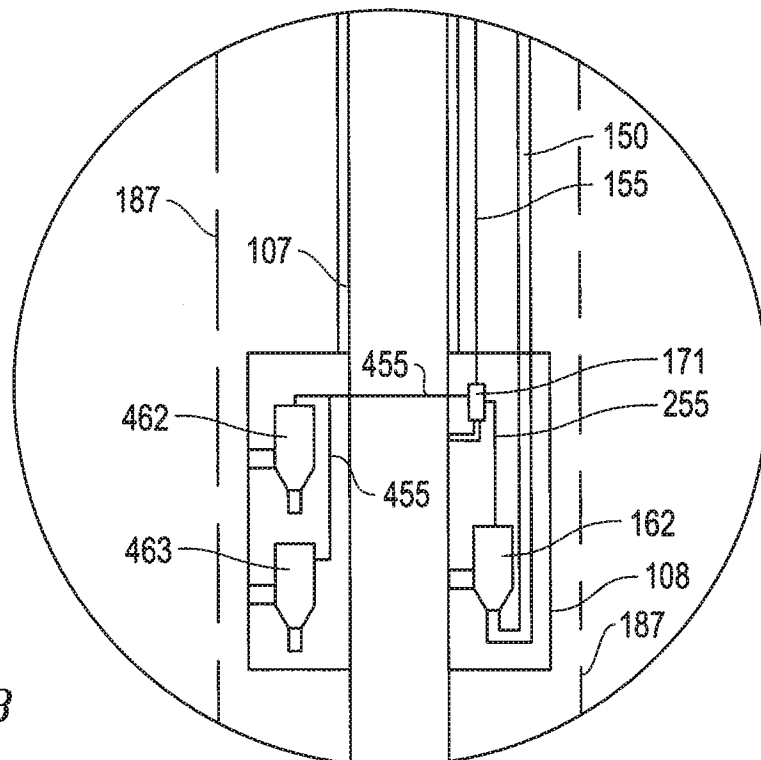


FIG. 4B

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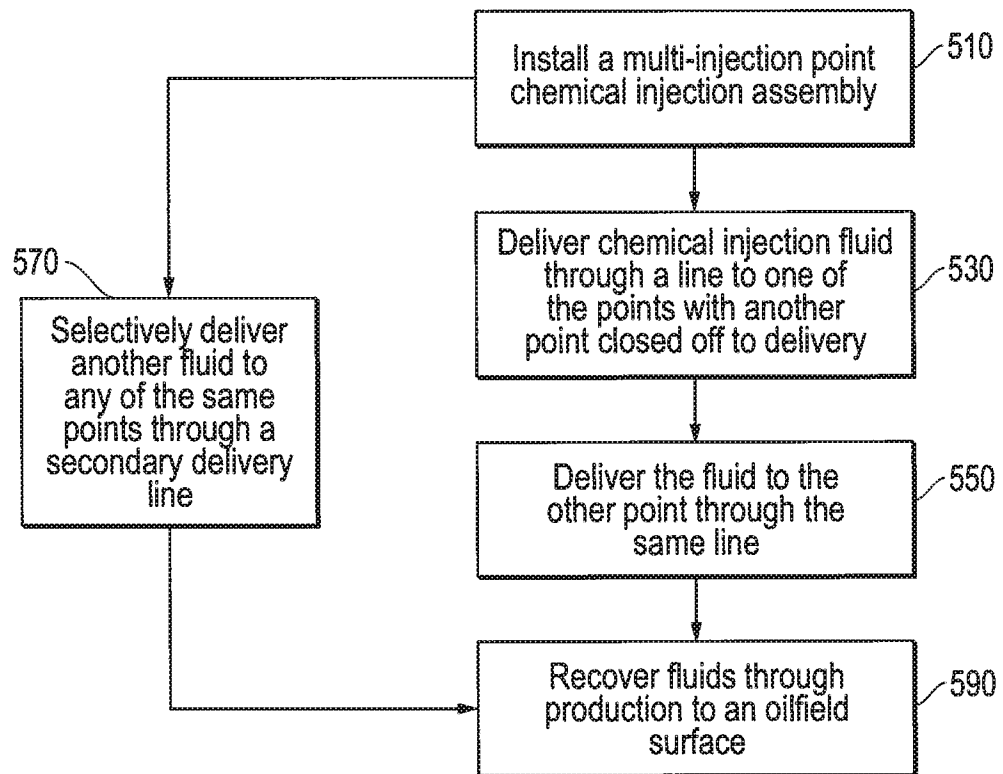


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2013/051234**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****E21B 43/22(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 43/22; E21B 34/06; E21B 7/12; E21B 34/00; C09K 8/528; E21B 43/24; C09K 8/536; E21B 33/16

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: telemetric, chemical, injection, acid, module, valve, control, and line

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2011-0079398 A1 (PATEL et al.) 07 April 2011 See paragraphs [0042]-[0047], [0066]-[0069] and figures 2, 11, 12A.	1-20
Y	US 7886825 B2 (VAN HAL et al.) 15 February 2011 See column 13, line 5 - column 14, line 64 and figures 1, 7.	1-20
A	US 7419937 B2 (RIMMER et al.) 02 September 2008 See column 2, lines 23-47 and figure 1.	1-20
A	US 5544705 A (JONES et al.) 13 August 1996 See column 4, line 30 - column 6, line 51 and figures 1-2.	1-20
A	US 2003-0150619 A1 (MEADERS, MICHAEL WADE) 14 August 2003 See paragraphs [0019]-[0021], [0039]-[0042] and figures 1, 6.	1-20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 October 2013 (17.10.2013)

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 October 2013 (18.10.2013)

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International application No.

PCT/US2013/051234

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