

RETRACTABLE MIXING DEVICE AND METHOD

ABSTRACT

A system for mixing a fluid in a tank includes a mixer assembly, a housing, and an actuator. The mixer assembly has a motor, a shaft, and an impeller. The housing is disposed in a side wall of the tank. The housing has sufficient volume to contain the impeller. The actuator is configured to retract the mixer assembly and draw the impeller into the housing. The mixer assembly has a first conformation and a second conformation. In the first conformation the impeller is disposed in a main portion of the tank and configured to mix the fluid in response to rotation of the impeller via the motor and shaft. In the second conformation the impeller is disposed in the housing and out of the main portion of the tank.

FIG. 1