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(54) Title: PRESSURE VESSEL NOZZLE AND ASSOCIATED METHOD

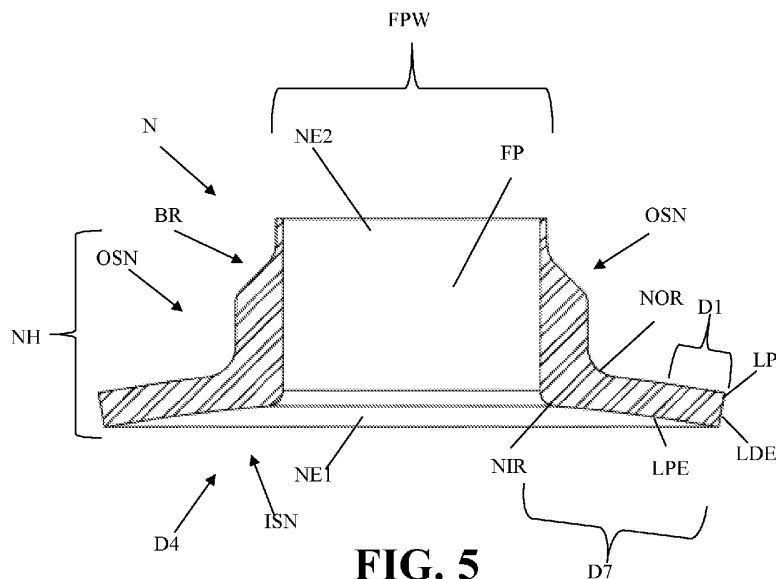


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: A nozzle for a pressure vessel can include a lip design that facilitates an improved reduction in stress at a location at which the nozzle can be joined to the vessel. Embodiments can include a contoured annular lip element for attachment to an end of a vessel to position a nozzle within an opening at an end of the vessel for fluidly connecting the vessel to another plant element. The nozzle can include one or more geometries to position a weld for joining the nozzle to the end of the vessel so that the weld is located at a pre-selected location to experience a pre-selected level of stress during operation of the vessel to facilitate use of a vessel having a reduced overall wall thickness to provide a vessel having an overall lower weight and capital cost while also improving the ease with which maintenance can be performed.

[Continued on next page]

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