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(54) Title: SEAL ARRANGEMENT AND SYSTEM

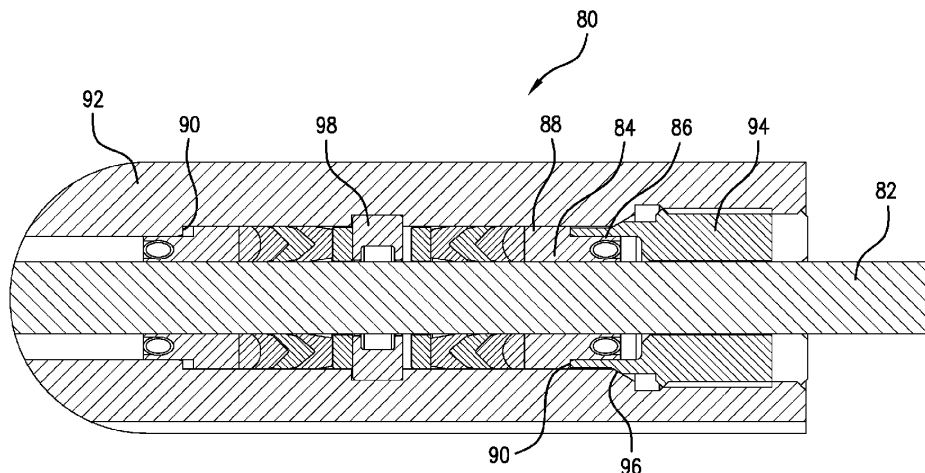


FIG. 8

(57) Abstract: A seal arrangement includes a seal assembly and a seal subassembly in operable contact with the seal assembly. The seal subassembly is configured to impart energy to the seal assembly to promote sealing of the seal assembly with a mating surface. A non-sealing feature of the seal subassembly depends from the seal subassembly and is interactive with a load shoulder of a structure adjacent the seal subassembly. The seal arrangement redirects a mechanical load path through the seal subassembly to the non-sealing feature, during use. A method of protecting a seal subassembly from reverse loading is by redirecting a load path through a seal subassembly to a non-sealing feature, while also permitting pressure energizing of the seal assembly by the seal subassembly in a sealing direction. A downhole system includes a borehole in a formation, a string in the borehole, and a seal.

[Continued on next page]

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