METHOD TO DELAY SWELLING OF A PACKER BY INCORPORATING DISSOLVABLE METAL SHROUD

ABSTRACT

Swellable packer assemblies, and associated systems and methods are described for operation in connection with a subterranean wellbore. The swellable packer assemblies may include a shroud for maintaining a sealing element in a fully inactivated configuration until the packer assemblies reach a predetermined location in the wellbore. The shroud may be formed of a dissolvable metal material such that fluids in the wellbore may remove the shroud, and thereafter the sealing element may be rapidly expanded by exposure to fluids in the wellbore or by exposure to a trigger fluid pumped from the a surface location. The expanded sealing element may establish a seal with an outer tubular structure to isolate adjacent portions of the wellbore.

[FIG. 2A]