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(54) Title: TUBULAR REVERSE POLARITY SELF-CLEANING CELL

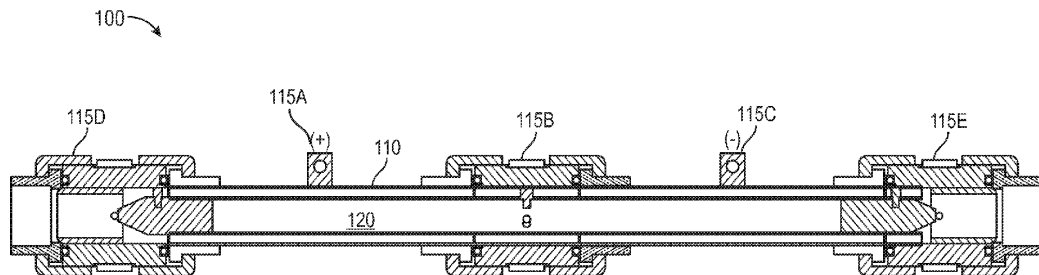


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A process for self-cleaning an electrolytic cell involves introducing a stream of seawater into the electrolytic cell having at least one cathode and one anode. The cathode and anode are substantially fully coated with a coating composition. A forward bias is applied between the anode and the cathode at a first current density as seawater flows between the electrodes. Subsequently, a reverse bias is provided at the cathode. The reverse bias is provided at a second current density that is lower than the first current density. When the reverse bias is applied, the polarity of the cathode is reversed for a short duration. This facilitates the generation of a small amount of hydrochloric acid at the previous cathode surface causing the dissolution of calcium, magnesium or other deposits on the surface of the electrodes without damaging the coating composition on the electrodes.

[Continued on next page]

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