**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for setting a downhole tool, comprising:

positioning a downhole tool within a wellbore, the downhole tool including expandable metal configured to expand in response to hydrolysis**,** the expandable metal including an alkaline earth metal or a transition metal;

subjecting the expandable metal to a wellbore fluid to expand the expandable metal into contact with one or more surfaces, wherein while subjecting the expandable metal to the wellbore fluid the expendable metal goes from metal to micron scale particles that expand and lock together; and

applying a voltage to the expandable metal while the expandable metal is being subjected to the wellbore fluid.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, further including coupling a first electrode between a first connection of a power source and the expandable metal, and coupling a second electrode between a second connection of the power source and a downhole conductive feature.

3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein at least a portion of the first electrode is electrically exposed to the wellbore fluid, or alternatively wherein at least a portion of the second electrode is electrically exposed to the wellbore fluid.

4. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein an electrical insulator physically separates the expandable metal and the downhole conductive feature.

5. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the first connection is a positive terminal of the power source, thereby causing the expandable metal to function as an anode, and the

second connection is a negative terminal of the power source, thereby causing the downhole conductive feature to function as a cathode.

6. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the downhole conductive feature is conductive tubing located within the wellbore, or alternatively wherein the power source is a direct current (DC) power source.

7. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the expandable metal is a first expandable metal feature and the downhole conductive feature is a second expandable metal feature.

8. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the first expandable metal feature and the second expandable metal feature are positioned radially about a conductive tubular, or alternatively further including one or more electrical insulators physically separating at least one of the first expandable metal feature and the second expandable metal feature from the conductive tubular.

9. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the power source is an alternating current (AC) power source, the alternating current (AC) power source causing the first expandable metal feature to alternate between functioning as an anode and a cathode and causing the second expandable metal feature to oppositely alternative between functioning as the cathode and the anode.

10. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the expandable metal is a slurry of expandable metal particles, and further including a conductive plate coupled to the first electrode for applying the voltage to the slurry of expandable metal particles.

11. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the voltage is a positive voltage operable

to accelerate the expansion of the expandable metal, or alternatively wherein the voltage is a negative voltage operable to decelerate the expansion of the expandable metal, or alternatively wherein the voltage is a negative voltage operable to protect the expandable metal from acid corrosion.

12. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the voltage ranges from 0.01 volts to 200 volts, or alternatively wherein the voltage ranges from 0.5 volts to 10 volts, or alternatively wherein a current associated with the voltage ranges from 0.05 amps to 5 amps.

13. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the downhole tool is a conductive downhole tool.