WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for energizing a seal, the method comprising:

providing a sealing apparatus comprising:

a sealing element comprising an oscillating pattern with alternating grooves, and

a swellable material disposed in the alternating grooves;

contacting the swellable material with a swell-inducing fluid, wherein the contacting swells the swellable material;

applying pressure to the sealing element with the swollen swellable material; and

forming a seal against an adjacent surface with both the sealing element and the swollen swellable material.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sealing element comprises a sealing material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic material, a metal material, or a composite thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the swell-inducing fluid is an aqueous fluid.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the swell-inducing fluid is an oleaginous fluid.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the sealing apparatus is a packer, or a seal stack.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the swellable material comprises a barrier coating.

7. A sealing apparatus comprising:

a sealing element comprising an oscillating pattern with alternating grooves, and

a swellable material disposed in the alternating grooves;

wherein the swellable material is configured to apply pressure to the sealing element after the swellable material has swollen; wherein the sealing element is configured to seal after pressure has been applied by the swollen swellable material; and wherein the swollen swellable material is configured to seal after it has swollen.

8. The sealing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the sealing element comprises a sealing material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic material, a metal material, or a composite thereof.

9. The sealing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the swellable material is configured to swell after contact with an aqueous fluid.

10. The sealing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the swellable material is configured to swell after contact with an oleaginous fluid.

11. The sealing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the sealing apparatus is a packer, or a seal stack.

12. The sealing apparatus of claim7, wherein the swellable material comprises a barrier coating.

13. A system for energizing a seal, the system comprising:

a sealing apparatus comprising:

a sealing element comprising an oscillating pattern with alternating grooves, and

a swellable material disposed in the alternating grooves;

wherein the swellable material is configured to apply pressure to the sealing element after the swellable material has swollen; wherein the sealing element is configured to seal after pressure has been applied by the swollen swellable material; wherein the swollen swellable material is configured to seal after it has swollen;

a tubular adjacent to the sealing apparatus.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the sealing element comprises a sealing material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic material, a metal material, or a composite thereof.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the sealing apparatus is a packer, or a seal stack.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the swellable material is configured to swell after contact with an aqueous fluid.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the swellable material is configured to swell after contact with an oleaginous fluid.