

METHOD FOR CONTROLLING FUSION PIPE SAG

ABSTRACT

The sag rate of fusion pipes (e.g., isopipes (13) used in an overflow downdraw fusion process) is reduced by the application of axial forces (F) to the end regions (23) of the pipe. The axial forces are applied to the end regions below the pipe's neutral axis (19) so that a bending moment is generated which opposes gravitational sagging of the middle of the pipe. The use of such sag-controlling axial forces increases pipe service life by, for example, at least a third.

Figure 2



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