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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIVERTING LOAD WITHIN A CUT-TO-RELEASE PACKER

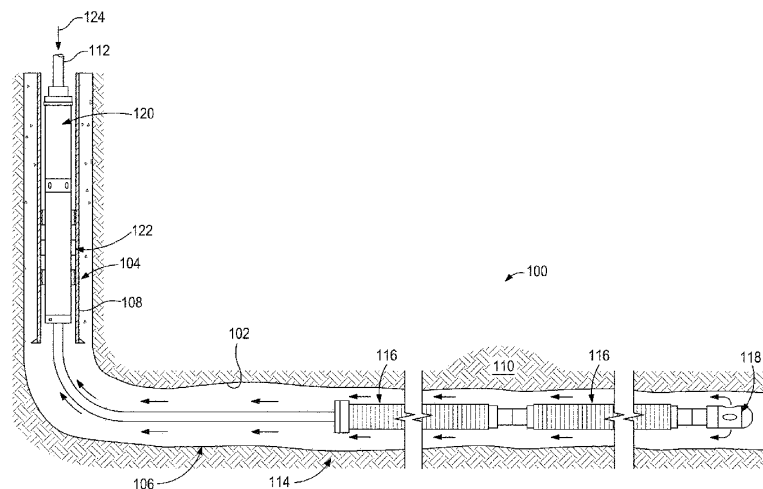


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A cut-to-release packer can include a bottom sub, a wedge assembly, a mandrel, and a load diverting snap ring. The mandrel extends within the wedge assembly. The mandrel can include a support portion with a first cross-sectional thickness and a cut zone portion with a second cross-sectional thickness less than the first cross-sectional thickness, wherein the cut zone portion is disposed between the bottom sub and the support portion. Both the mandrel and the wedge assembly can be coupled to the bottom sub. The load diverting snap ring can be engaged with the mandrel along the support portion, wherein the load diverting snap ring facilitates transfer of tensile load between the wedge assembly and the support portion of the mandrel.

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