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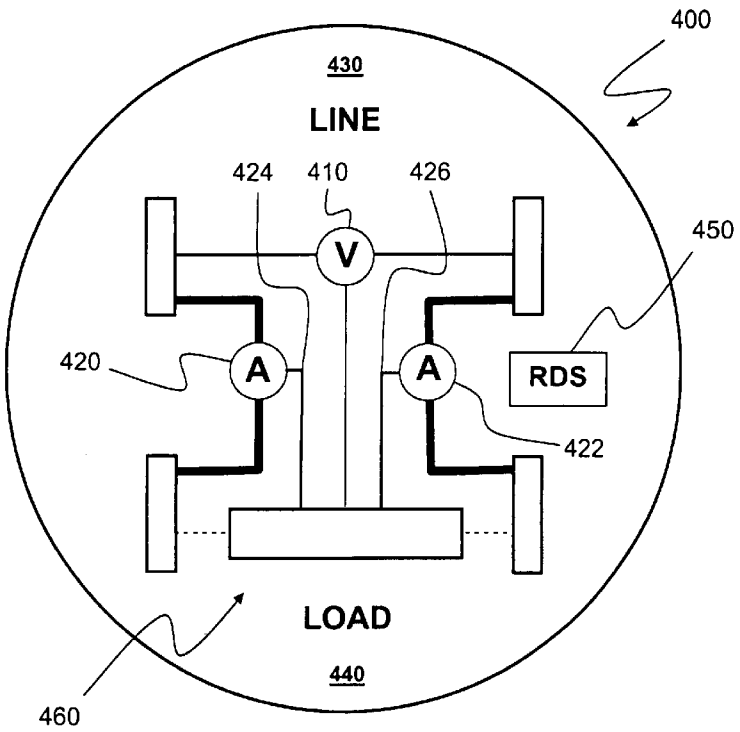
(54) Title: EXTENDING CONTACT LIFE IN REMOTE DISCONNECT APPLICATIONS



(57) Abstract: Disclosed are apparatus and methodology subject matters for providing improved functionality of a meter in a 2-way communications arrangement, such as an Advanced Metering System (AMS) or Infrastructure (AMI). More particularly, the present technology relates to methodologies and apparatus for providing load sensing for utility meters which preferably are operable with remote disconnect features in an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) open operational framework. Meters per the present subject matter utilize a detection circuit, and separately utilize certain remote disconnect functionality. In particular, disconnect functionality is coupled with consideration of electric load information, such as load current as determined by the metering functionality. Providing such functionality allows for the following, all in accordance with the present subject matter: (a) frequent on/off cycling of the electrical service, (b) disconnection of service while full rated current is being delivered through the switch contacts, (c) preservation of switch contact integrity by selective switch operation based on current load, and (d) providing immediate override functionality if needed.

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