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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A DESANDING APPARATUS AND A METHOD OF USING SAME

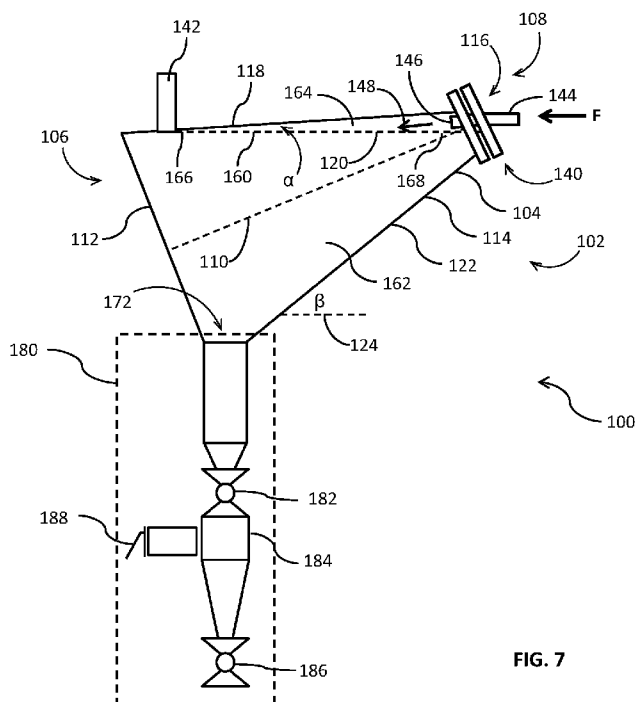


FIG. 7

(57) Abstract: A desanding system has an elongated vessel

that is tilted at a non-zero inclination angle. The vessel has an upper end that tilts downwardly towards a distal end and has a diverging bounding wall so as to define a top wall having a first inclination angle and a bottom wall having a second inclination angle greater than the first inclination angle. A fluid inlet interface at the vessel's upper end discharges a gas stream, having entrained liquids and particulates, into a freeboard portion formed adjacent the top wall above a gas/liquid interface formed below the fluid outlet. A cross-sectional area of the freeboard portion causes precipitation of the entrained liquids and particulates therefrom for collection in a belly storage portion formed below the interface. A desanded gas stream, being free of a substantial portion of the particulates is removed from the vessel through a fluid outlet adjacent the distal base.



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