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(54) **Title:** CONTAINMENT OR SEPARATION SEAL HAVING PRIMARY RING WITH MICRO-DRILLED HOLES FORMED THEREIN

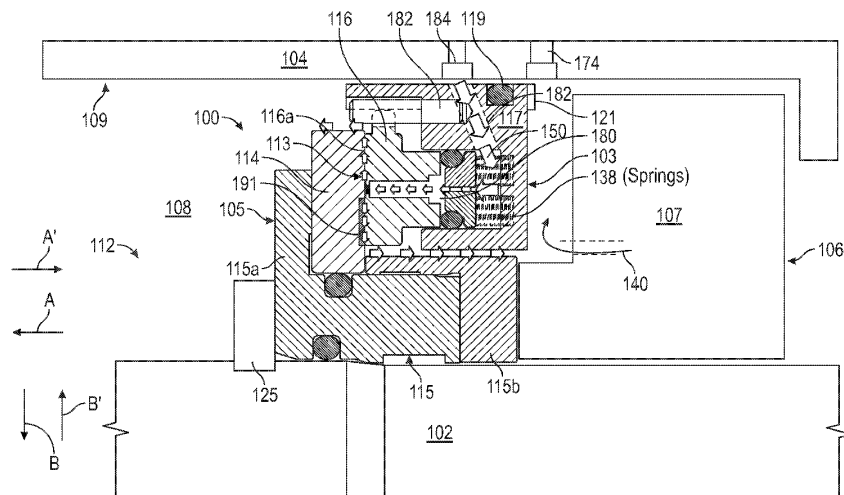


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A seal includes a mating ring that rotates relative to a carbon primary ring at a seal interface. A buffer gas is provided into the seal and passes from the back of the primary ring to the seal interface through holes drilled in the primary ring. The seal can be used as a separation seal or in combination with another seal.

[Continued on next page]

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