## CLAIMS

1. A wellbore packer, comprising:

a mandrel;

a radially expandable packing element carried about said mandrel; and

a depletive shroud disposed about said packing element.

2. The packer of claim 1, wherein:

said depletive shroud is a sleeve or a coating.

3. The packer of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one element from the group consisting of an anchoring mechanism carried by said mandrel operable so as to selectively fix said packer within a wellbore and an actuation mechanism operatively coupled to said packing element so as to selectively radially expand said packing element;

wherein said depletive shroud covers said at least one element.

4. The packer of claim 1, wherein:

said depletive shroud is formed of a material meltable under a wellbore thermodynamic condition;

said material is a fusible metal alloy; and

said material is a thermoplastic.

5. The packer of claim 1, wherein:

said depletive shroud is formed of a material dissoluble into a wellbore fluid.

6. A well system, comprising:

a wellbore formed in the earth and opening to the surface of the earth;

a conveyance extending from the surface of the earth into said wellbore; and

a packer carried by said conveyance and disposed within said wellbore, said packer including a mandrel, a radially expandable packing element carried about said mandrel, and a depletive shroud disposed about said packing element.

7. The well system of claim 6, wherein:

said depletive shroud is a sleeve or a coating; and

said conveyance includes one from the group consisting of a drill string, a working string, a production tubing string, a coiled tubing, and a wireline.

8. The well system of claim 6, further comprising:

at least one element from the group consisting of an anchoring mechanism carried by said mandrel operable so as to selectively fix said packer within a wellbore and an actuation mechanism operatively coupled to said packing element so as to selectively radially expand said packing element; wherein

said depletive shroud covers said at least one element.

9. The well system of claim 6, wherein:

said depletive shroud is formed of a material meltable under a wellbore thermodynamic condition; and

said material includes one from a group consisting of a fusible metal alloy and a thermoplastic.

10. The well system of claim 6, wherein:

said depletive shroud is formed of a material dissoluble into a wellbore fluid.

11. A method of wellbore operations, comprising:

covering a packing element of a packer with a depletive shroud;

running said packer into a wellbore formed in the earth;

allowing said shroud to deplete under a wellbore condition; and then

setting said packer within said wellbore.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

covering at least one of the group consisting of an anchoring mechanism carried by said mandrel operable so as to selectively fix said packer within a wellbore and an actuation mechanism operatively coupled to said packing element so as to selectively radially expand said packing element with said depletive shroud.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

covering said packing element with said depletive shroud formed of a material dissoluble into a wellbore fluid.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

covering said packing element with said depletive shroud formed of a material meltable under a wellbore thermodynamic condition; and

forming the depletive shroud from a material selected from the group consisting of a fusible metal alloy and a thermoplastic.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein:

covering comprises deploying a depletive sleeve to at least partially enclose said packing element; or

covering comprises coating the packing element with a depletive material that at least partially encases said packing element.