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(54) Title: ENERGIZING SEALS WITH SWELLABLE MATERIALS

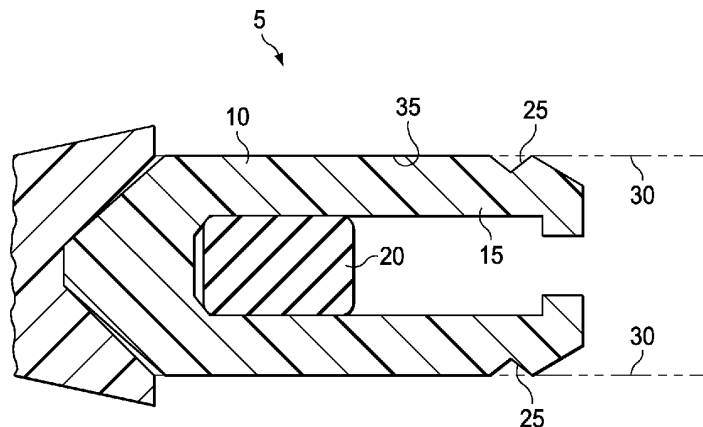


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Methods and apparatus for energizing seals. An example method includes providing a sealing apparatus. The sealing apparatus comprises a sealing element and a swellable material. The method further includes contacting the swellable material with a swell-inducing fluid, wherein the contacting swells the swellable material; applying pressure to the sealing element with the swollen swellable material; and forming a seal with the sealing element.

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