

Abstract**VALVE ASSEMBLY FOR HYDROCARBON WELLS**

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The assembly comprises a first valve 10 (e.g. a conventional gate valve) and a second valve 26 (e.g. a hydraulically operated, fail safe check valve). The second valve 26 provides an alternative to the pressure barrier conventionally formed by a downhole annulus safety valve. It is installable/retrievable through the first valve 10 using a tool of 10 the type used for installation of surface wellhead VR (valve replacement) plugs.

Fig. 4