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(54) Title: SCREEN APPARATUS AND METHOD

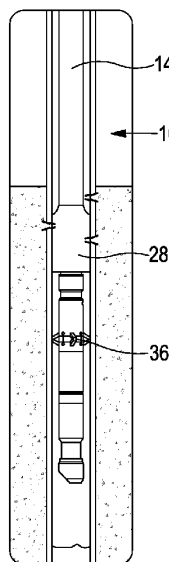


Figure 8

(57) Abstract: A downhole expandable apparatus for restricting ingress of solids in a wellbore comprises a base pipe, a fluid permeable expandable foam material mounted on the base pipe configurable between a non-expanded and an expanded configuration, and a retractable sleeve. The retractable sleeve is moveable between a first configuration in which the retractable sleeve retains the expandable foam material in the non-expanded configuration, and a second configuration in which the retractable sleeve is retracted to provide a free portion of the expandable foam material. The expandable foam material is permitted to radially expand towards the expanded configuration and into engagement with a surface in the wellbore.

WO 2021/028474 A1