WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for energizing a seal, the method comprising:

providing a sealing apparatus comprising:

a sealing element comprising an oscillating pattern with alternating grooves, and

a swellable material disposed in the alternating grooves;

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 against an adjacent surface with both the sealing element and the swollen swellable material.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sealing element comprises a sealing material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic material, a metal material, or a composite thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the swell-inducing fluid is an aqueous fluid.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the swell-inducing fluid is an oleaginous fluid.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the sealing element is a sealing element selected from the group consisting of an o-ring, v-seal, u-seal, u-cup, lip seal, chevron seal, washer, gasket, rod seal, slip, wedge, sleeve, and any combination thereof.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the sealing apparatus is a packer, a seal stack, or a double-male adapter.

~~7. The method of claim 1, wherein the sealing element comprises an oscillating pattern.~~

~~8~~7. The method of claim 1, wherein the swellable material comprises a barrier coating.

~~9~~8. A sealing apparatus comprising:

a sealing element comprising an oscillating pattern with alternating grooves, and

a swellable material disposed in the alternating grooves;

wherein the swellable material is configured to apply pressure to the sealing element after the swellable material has swollen; wherein the sealing element is configured to seal after pressure has been applied by the swollen swellable material; and wherein the swollen swellable material is configured to seal after it has swollen.

~~10~~9. The sealing apparatus of claim ~~9~~8, wherein the sealing element comprises a sealing material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic material, a metal material, or a composite thereof.

~~11~~10. The sealing apparatus of claim ~~9~~8, wherein the swellable material is configured to swell after contact with an aqueous fluid.

~~12~~11. The sealing apparatus of claim ~~9~~8, wherein the swellable material is configured to swell after contact with an oleaginous fluid.

~~13~~12. The sealing apparatus of claim ~~9~~8, wherein the sealing element is a sealing element selected from the group consisting of an o-ring, v-seal, u-seal, u-cup, lip seal, chevron seal, washer, gasket, rod seal, slip, wedge, sleeve, and any combination thereof.

~~14~~13. The sealing apparatus of claim ~~9~~8, wherein the sealing apparatus is a packer, a seal stack, or a double-male adapter.

~~15. The sealing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the sealing element comprises an oscillating pattern.~~

~~16~~14. The sealing apparatus of claim ~~9~~8, wherein the swellable material comprises a barrier coating.

~~17~~15. A system for energizing a seal, the system comprising:

a sealing apparatus comprising:

a sealing element comprising an oscillating pattern with alternating grooves, and

a swellable material disposed in the alternating grooves;

wherein the swellable material is configured to apply pressure to the sealing element after the swellable material has swollen; wherein the sealing element is configured to seal after pressure has been applied by the swollen swellable material; wherein the swollen swellable material is configured to seal after it has swollen;

a tubular adjacent to the sealing apparatus.

~~18~~16. The system of claim ~~17~~15, wherein the sealing element comprises a sealing material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic material, a metal material, or a composite thereof.

~~19~~17. The system of claim ~~17~~15, wherein the sealing element is a sealing element selected from the group consisting of an o-ring, v-seal, u-seal, u-cup, lip seal, chevron seal, washer, gasket, rod seal, slip, wedge, sleeve, and any combination thereof.

~~20~~18. The system of claim ~~17~~15, wherein the sealing apparatus is a packer, a seal stack, or a double-male adapter.