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(54) **Title:** COMPOSITE EXPANDABLE METAL ELEMENTS WITH REINFORCEMENT

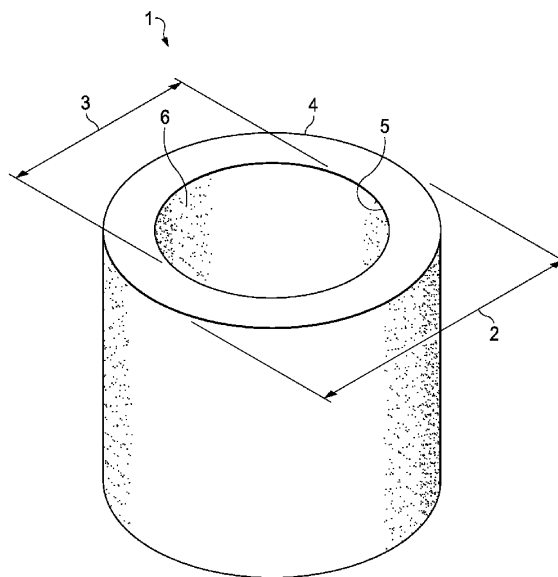


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** Methods for forming a seal in a wellbore. An example method includes positioning an expandable metal sealing element in the wellbore; wherein the expandable metal sealing element comprises a composite material of expandable metal and a reinforcement material. The expandable metal forms a matrix and the reinforcement material is distributed within the matrix. The method further includes contacting the expandable metal sealing element with a fluid that reacts with the expandable metal to produce a reaction product having a volume greater than the expandable metal.

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