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Kuehn et al.

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(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Jan. 24, 2023**

(54) **HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-
claimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **17/878,493**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 17/388,716, filed on
Jul. 29, 2021, now Pat. No. 11,401,779, which is a
(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**
E21B 43/26 (2006.01)
E21B 33/068 (2006.01)
E21B 34/02 (2006.01)
E21B 41/00 (2006.01)
E21B 43/11 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **E21B 34/02** (2013.01); **E21B 17/006**
(2013.01); **E21B 33/068** (2013.01); **E21B**
41/00 (2013.01); **E21B 43/11** (2013.01); **E21B**
43/26 (2013.01); **E21B 43/2607** (2020.05);
F16K 3/36 (2013.01);

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC E21B 33/068; E21B 34/02; E21B 41/00;
E21B 43/11; E21B 43/26; E21B 43/2607;
F16K 3/36; F16N 11/00; F16N 2210/00;
F16N 2210/02; F16N 29/02; F16N 39/00;
F16N 7/38; F16N 7/40

See application file for complete search history.

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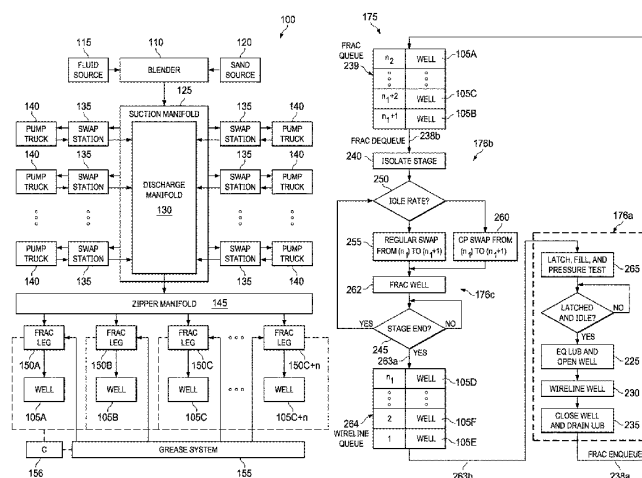
Primary Examiner — Daniel P Stephenson

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Haynes and Boone, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A hydraulic fracturing plan executable by a hydraulic frac-
turing system to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and
gas wells. In one or more embodiments, the execution of the
hydraulic fracturing plan implements the following steps:
communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first
valve, the first valve being associated with both the manifold
and the first well; and, in response to determining that the
fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or
more conditions: opening a second valve; communicating
fluid to a second well via the second valve; and closing the
first valve after opening the second valve.

38 Claims, 50 Drawing Sheets



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Related U.S. Application Data

- continuation-in-part of application No. 17/319,854, filed on May 13, 2021, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 16/855,749, filed on Apr. 22, 2020, now Pat. No. 11,480,027, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 16/248,648, filed on Jan. 15, 2019, now Pat. No. 10,724,682, said application No. 16/855,749 is a continuation-in-part of application No. 16/803,156, filed on Feb. 27, 2020, now Pat. No. 11,242,724, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 16/248,633, filed on Jan. 15, 2019, now Pat. No. 10,584,552, said application No. 16/803,156 is a continuation-in-part of application No. 16/436,623, filed on Jun. 10, 2019, now Pat. No. 11,208,856, said application No. 16/803,156 is a continuation-in-part of application No. 16/100,741, filed on Aug. 10, 2018, now Pat. No. 10,689,938.
- (60) Provisional application No. 63/189,663, filed on May 17, 2021, provisional application No. 62/836,761, filed on Apr. 22, 2019, provisional application No. 62/617,443, filed on Jan. 15, 2018, provisional application No. 62/617,438, filed on Jan. 15, 2018, provisional application No. 62/755,170, filed on Nov. 2, 2018, provisional application No. 62/638,688, filed on Mar. 5, 2018, provisional application No. 62/638,681, filed on Mar. 5, 2018, provisional application No. 62/637,220, filed on Mar. 1, 2018, provisional application No. 62/637,215, filed on Mar. 1, 2018, provisional application No. 62/598,914, filed on Dec. 14, 2017.

(51) Int. Cl.

F16K 3/36 (2006.01)
F16N 11/00 (2006.01)
F16N 29/02 (2006.01)
E21B 17/00 (2006.01)

(52) U.S. Cl.

CPC **F16N 11/00** (2013.01); **F16N 29/02** (2013.01); **F16N 2210/00** (2013.01)

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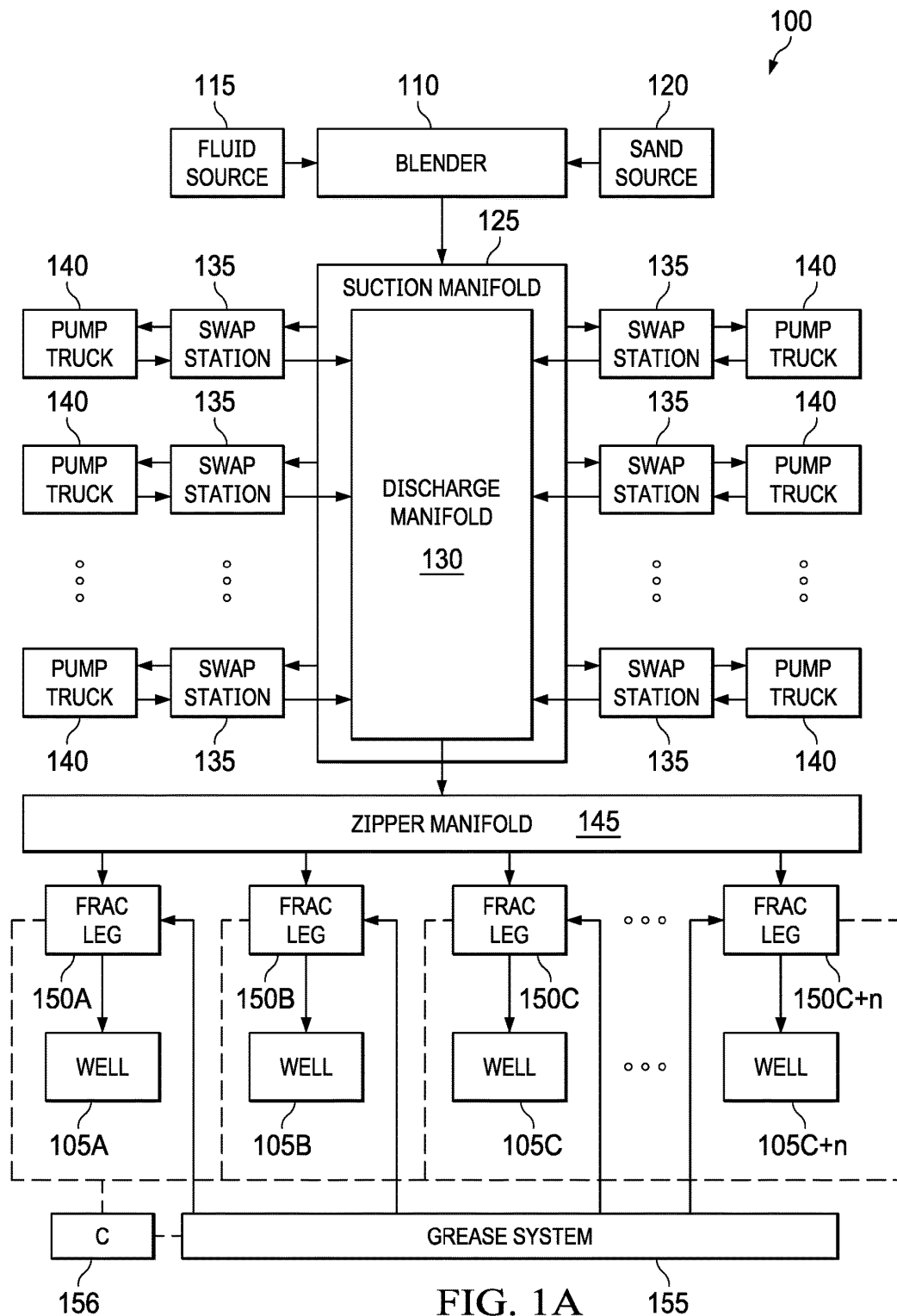
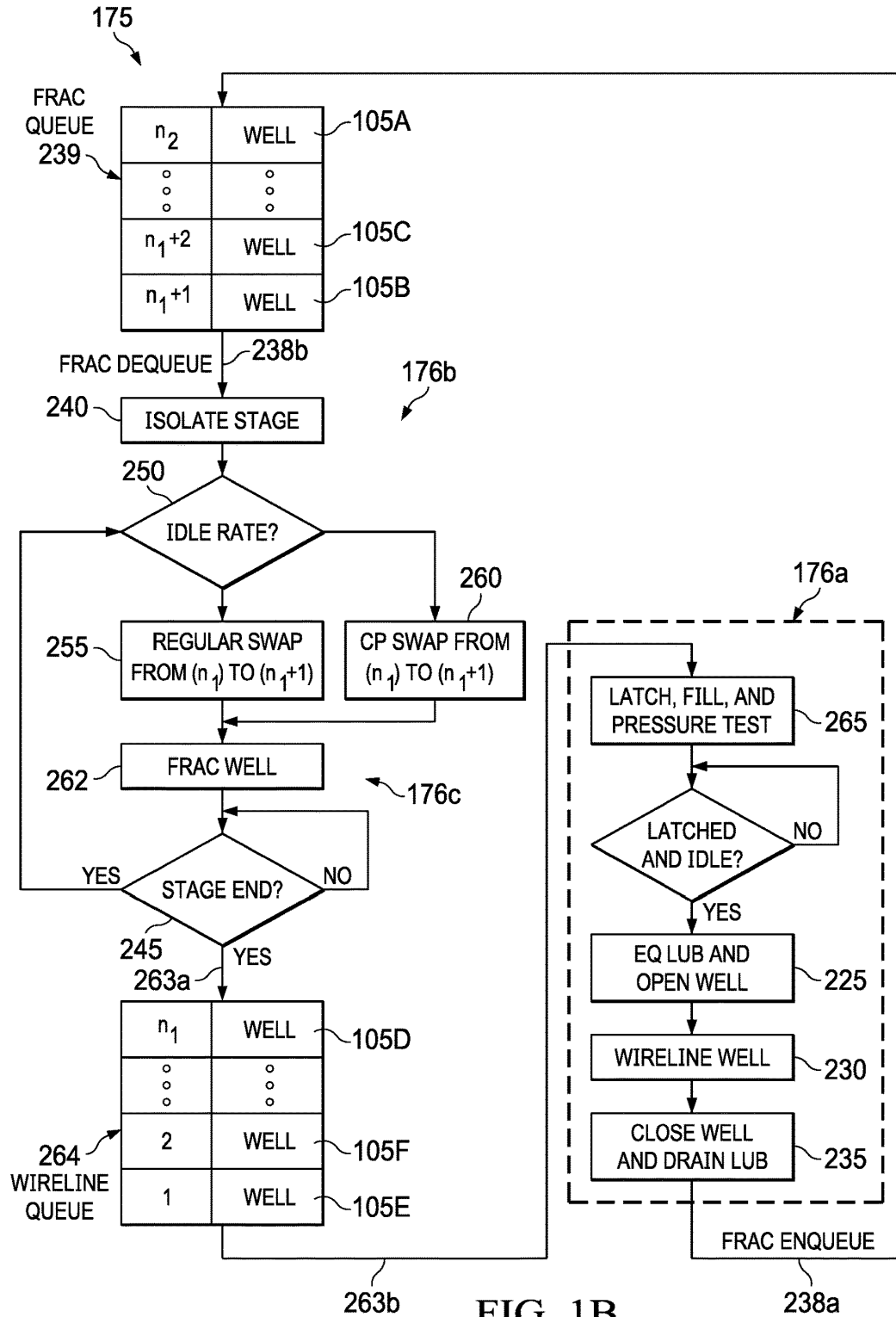


FIG. 1A



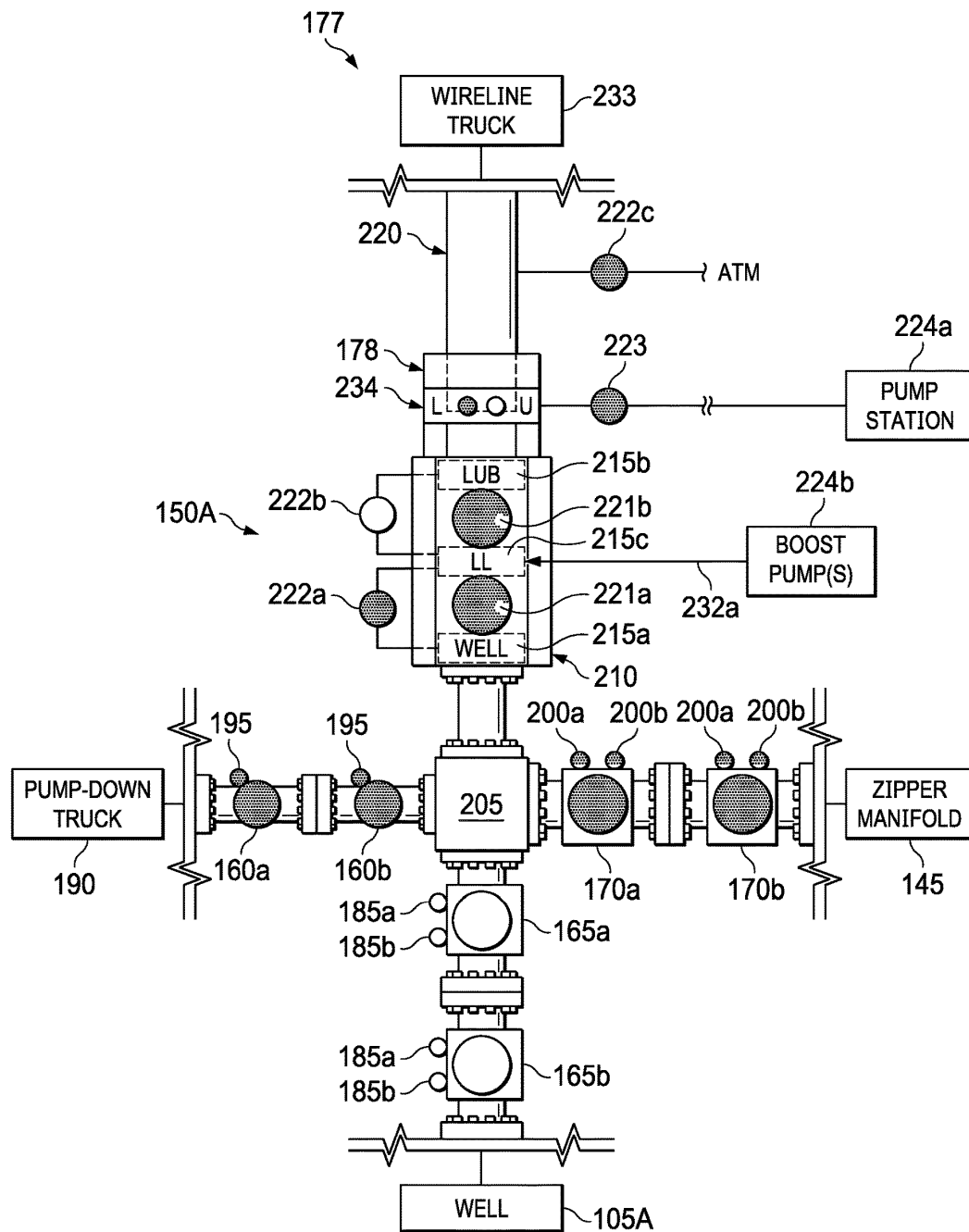


FIG. 2A

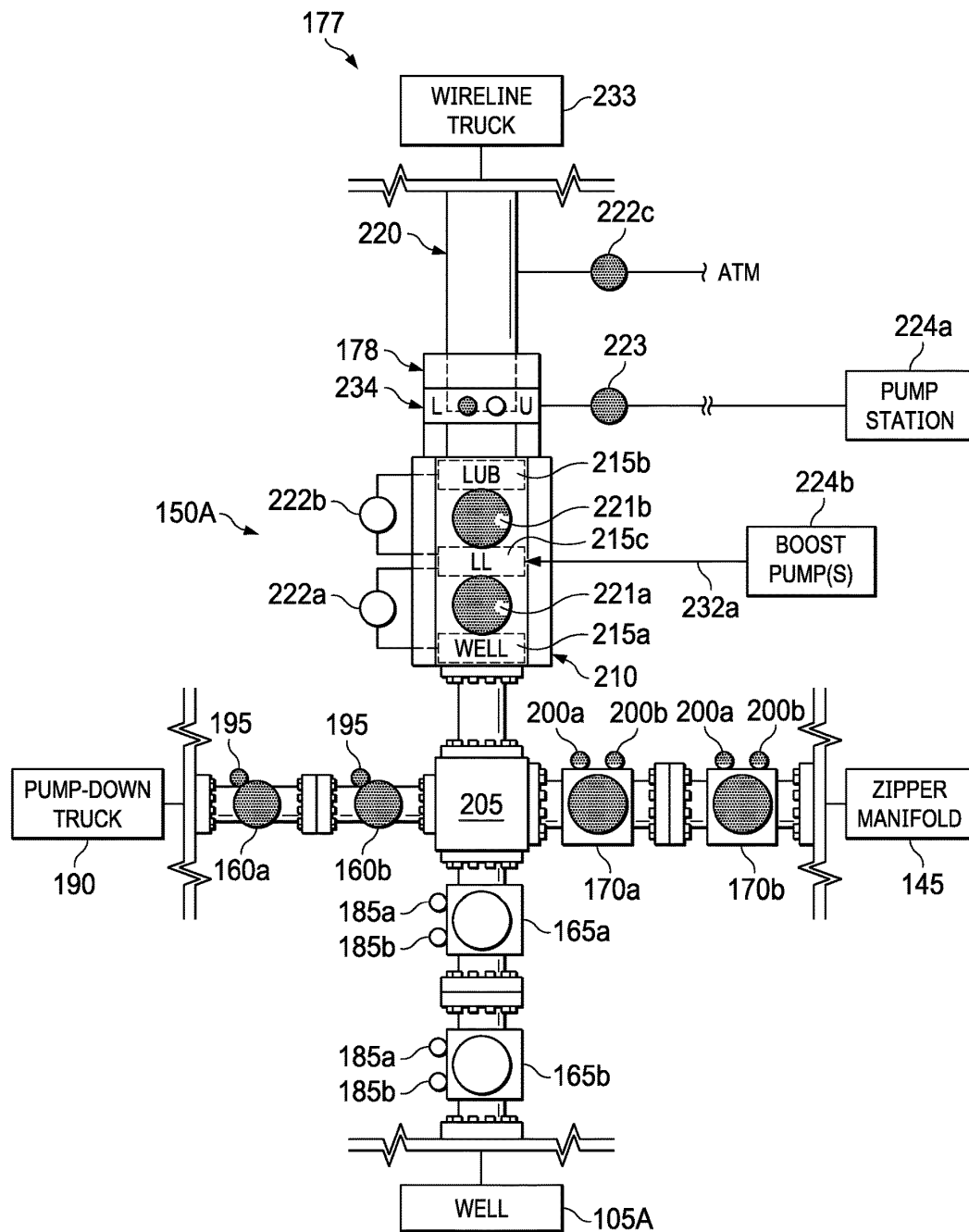


FIG. 2B

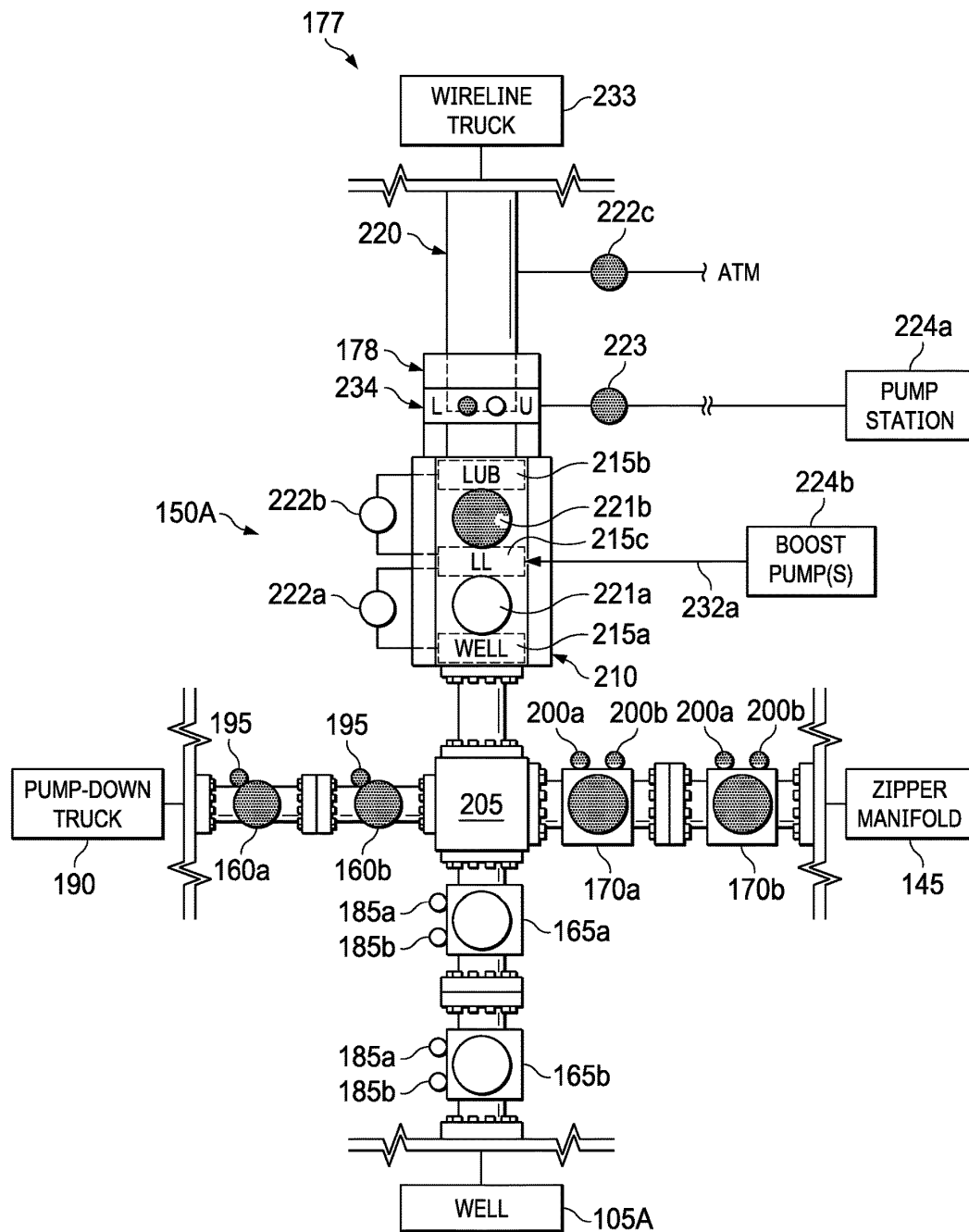


FIG. 2C

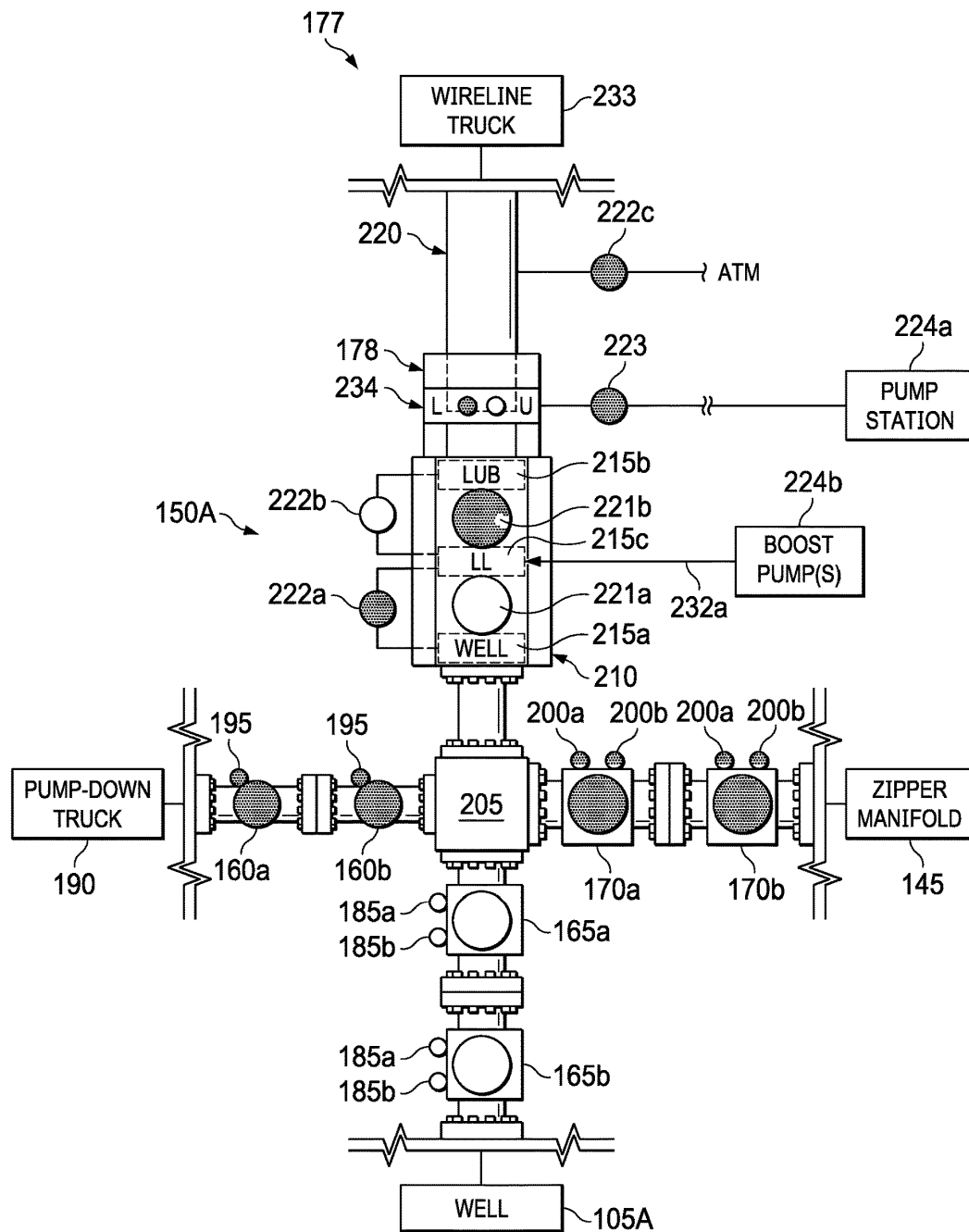


FIG. 2D

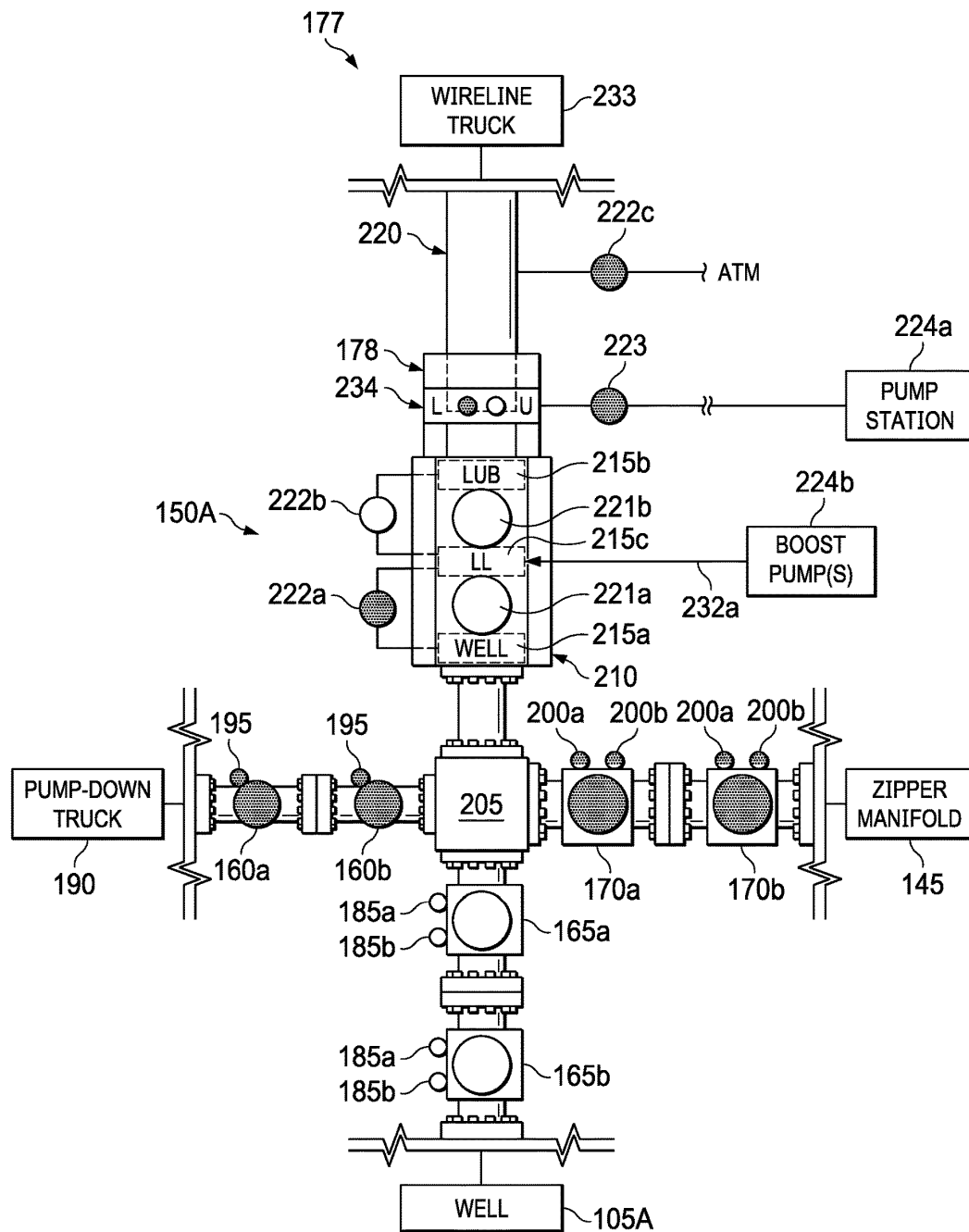


FIG. 2E

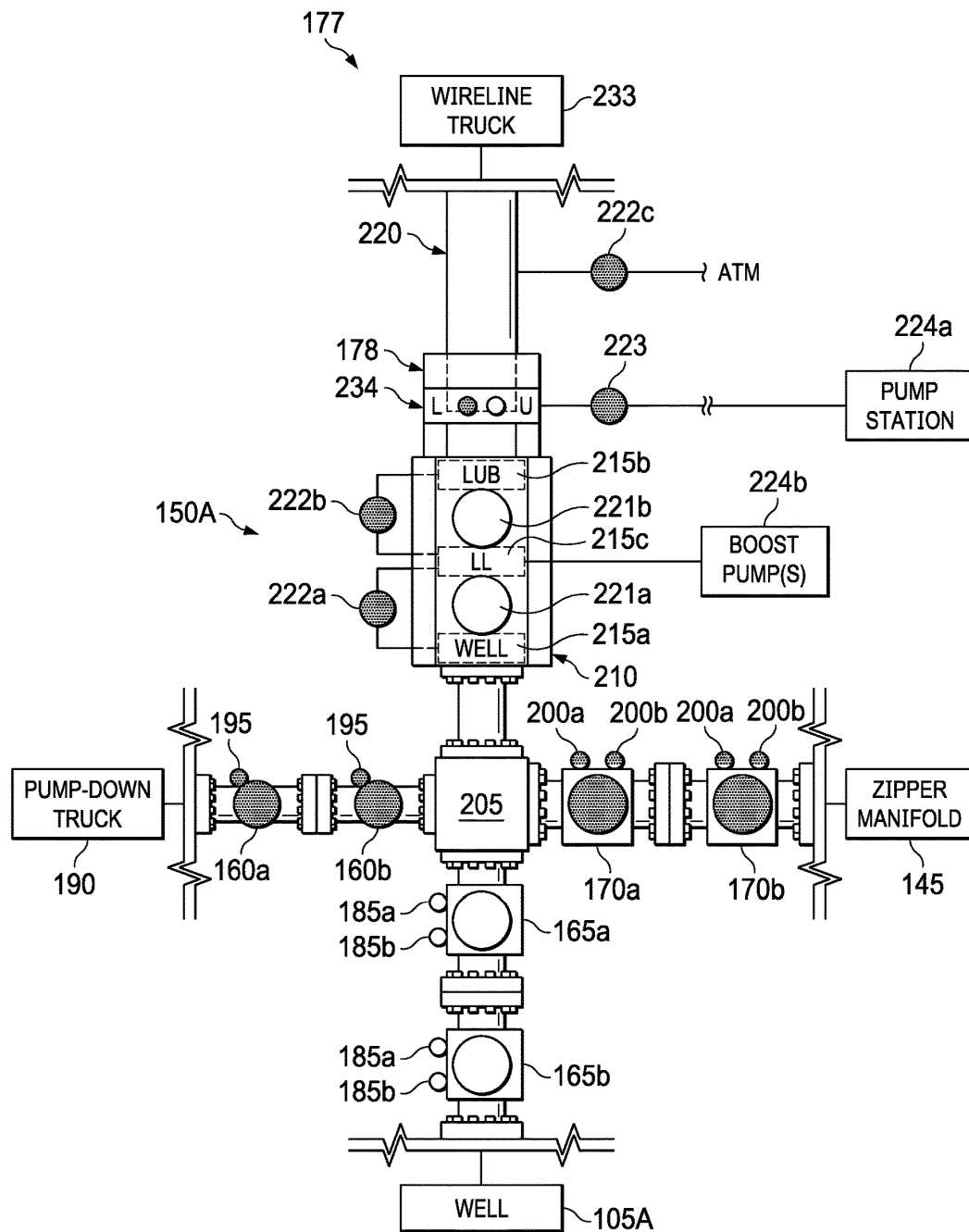


FIG. 2G

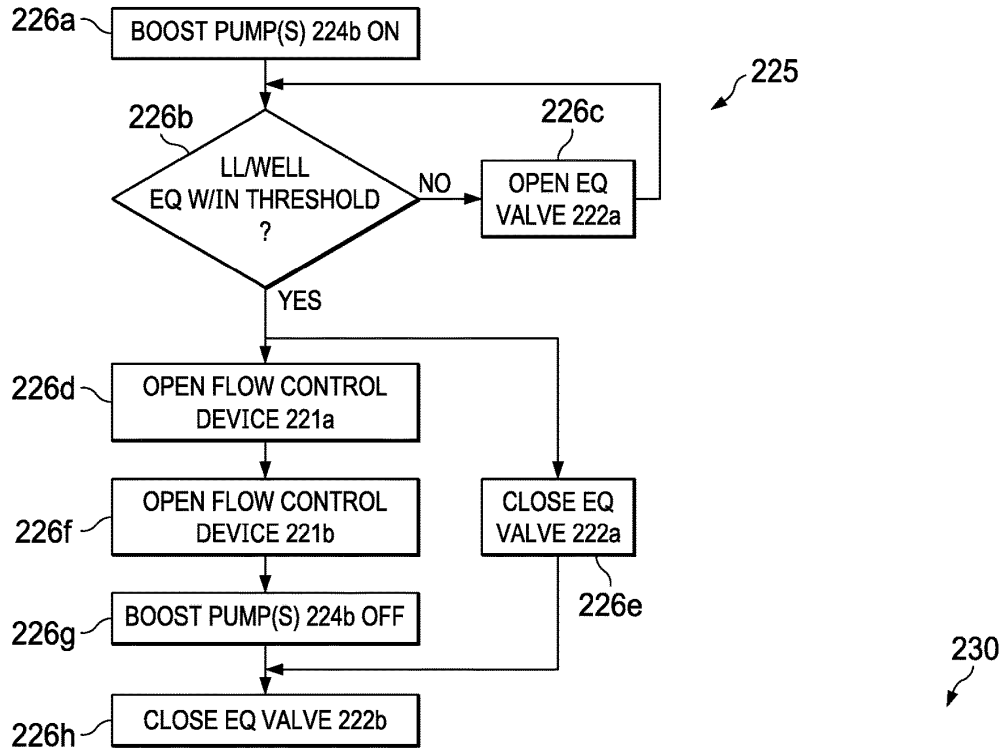


FIG. 3

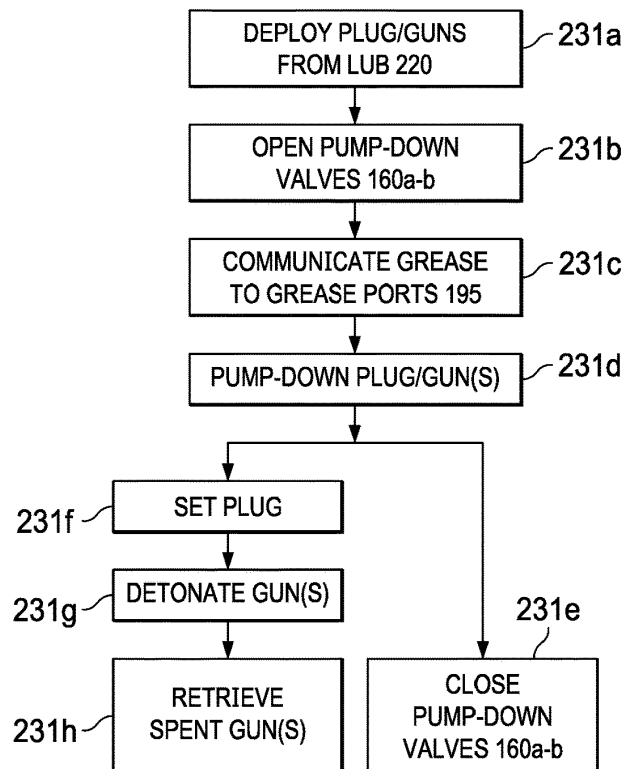


FIG. 4

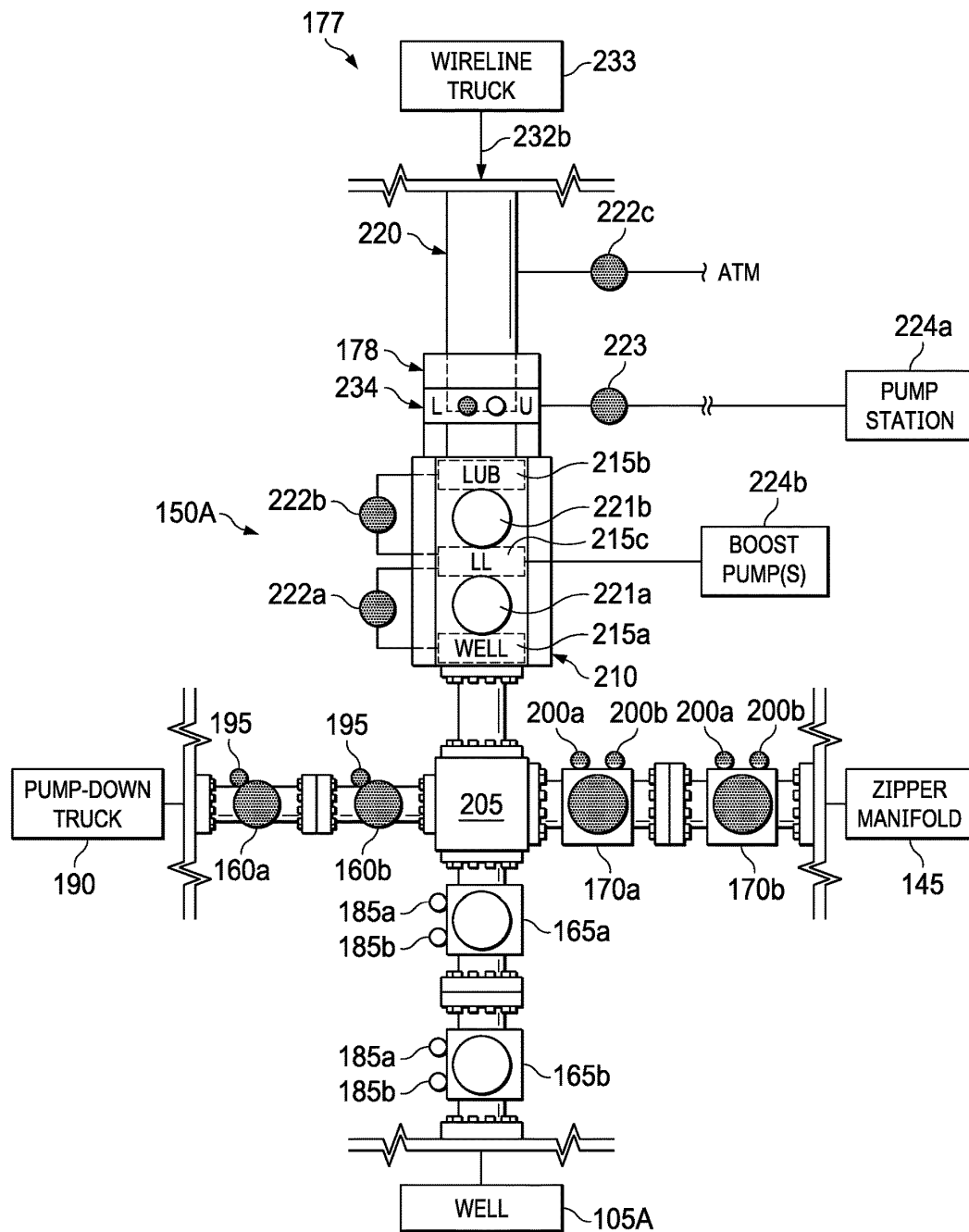


FIG. 5A

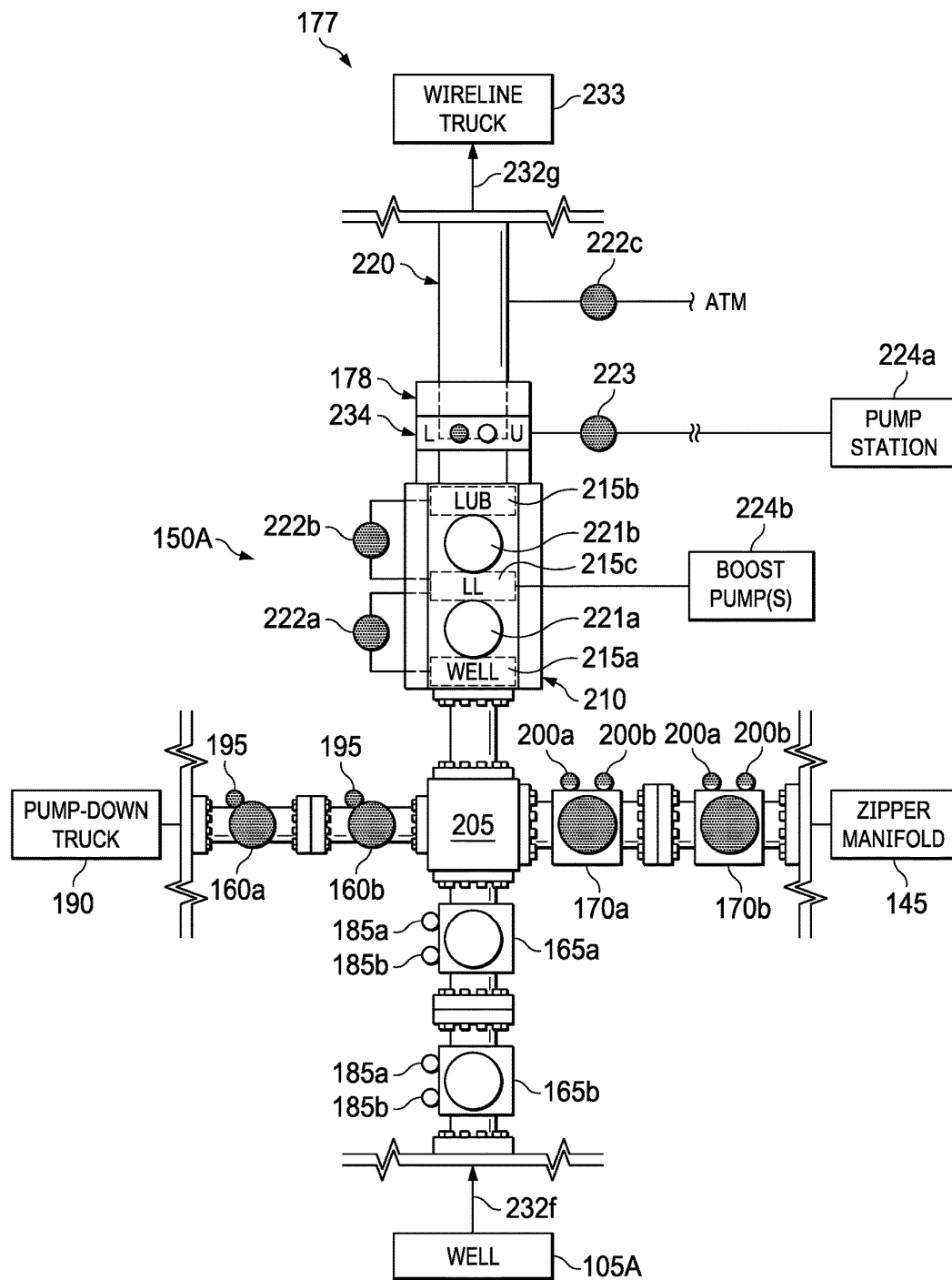


FIG. 5C

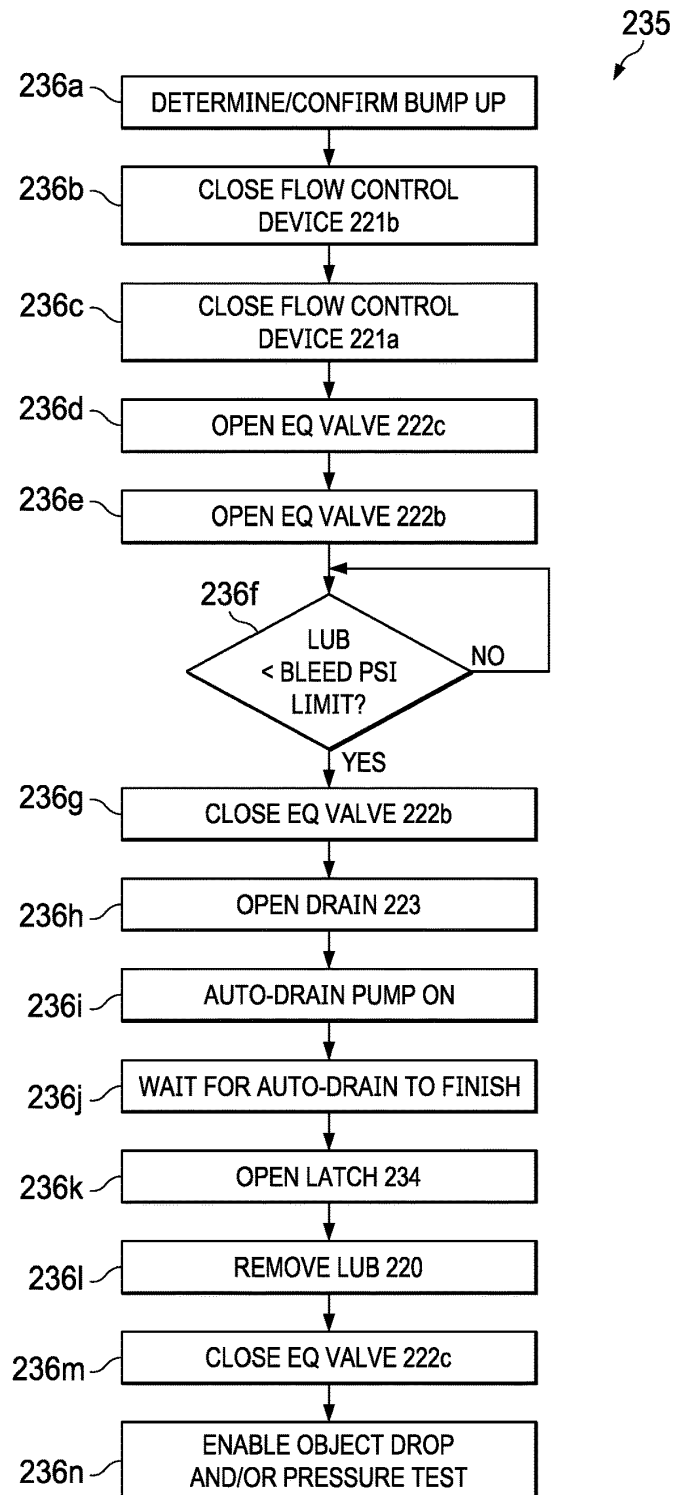


FIG. 6

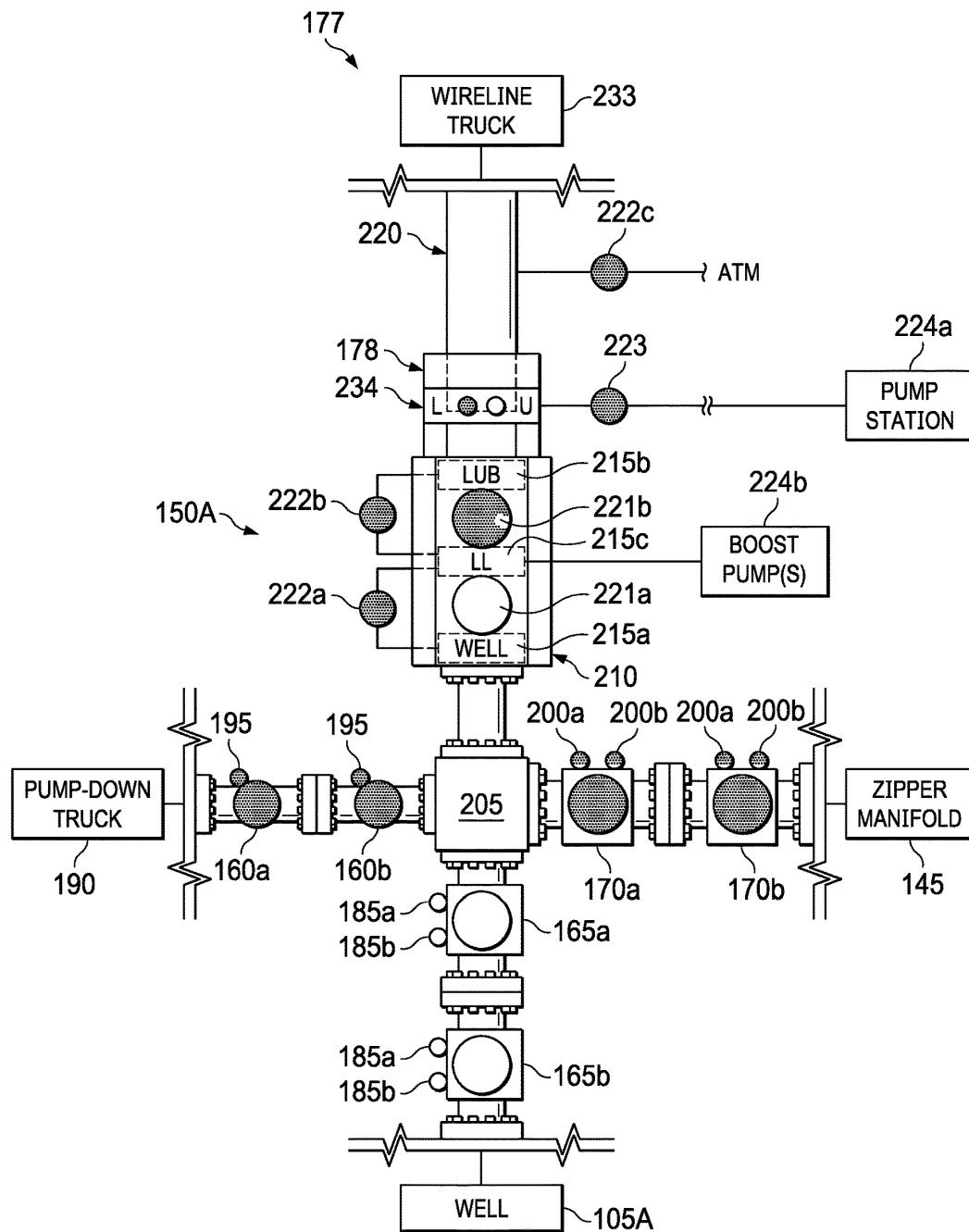


FIG. 7A

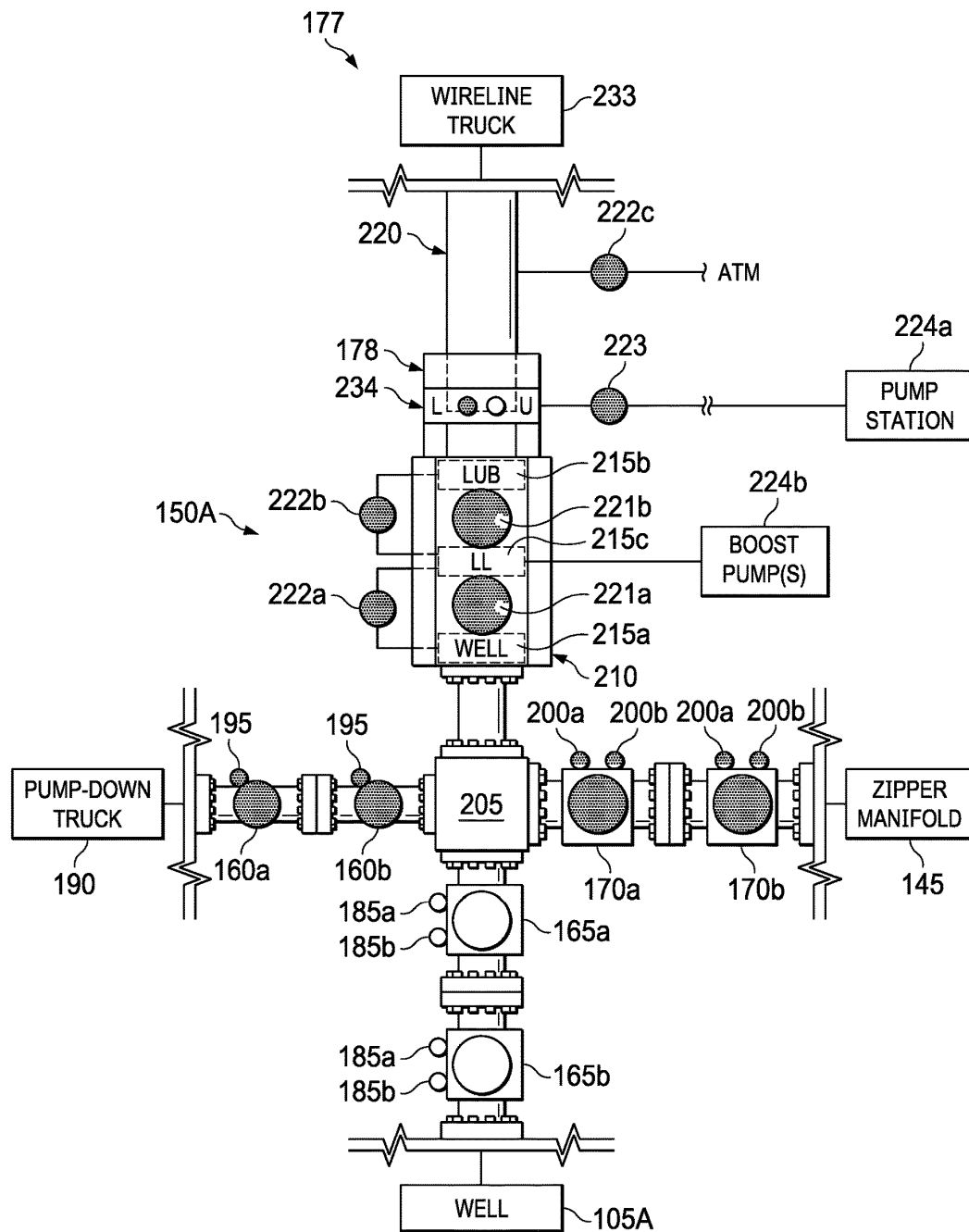


FIG. 7B

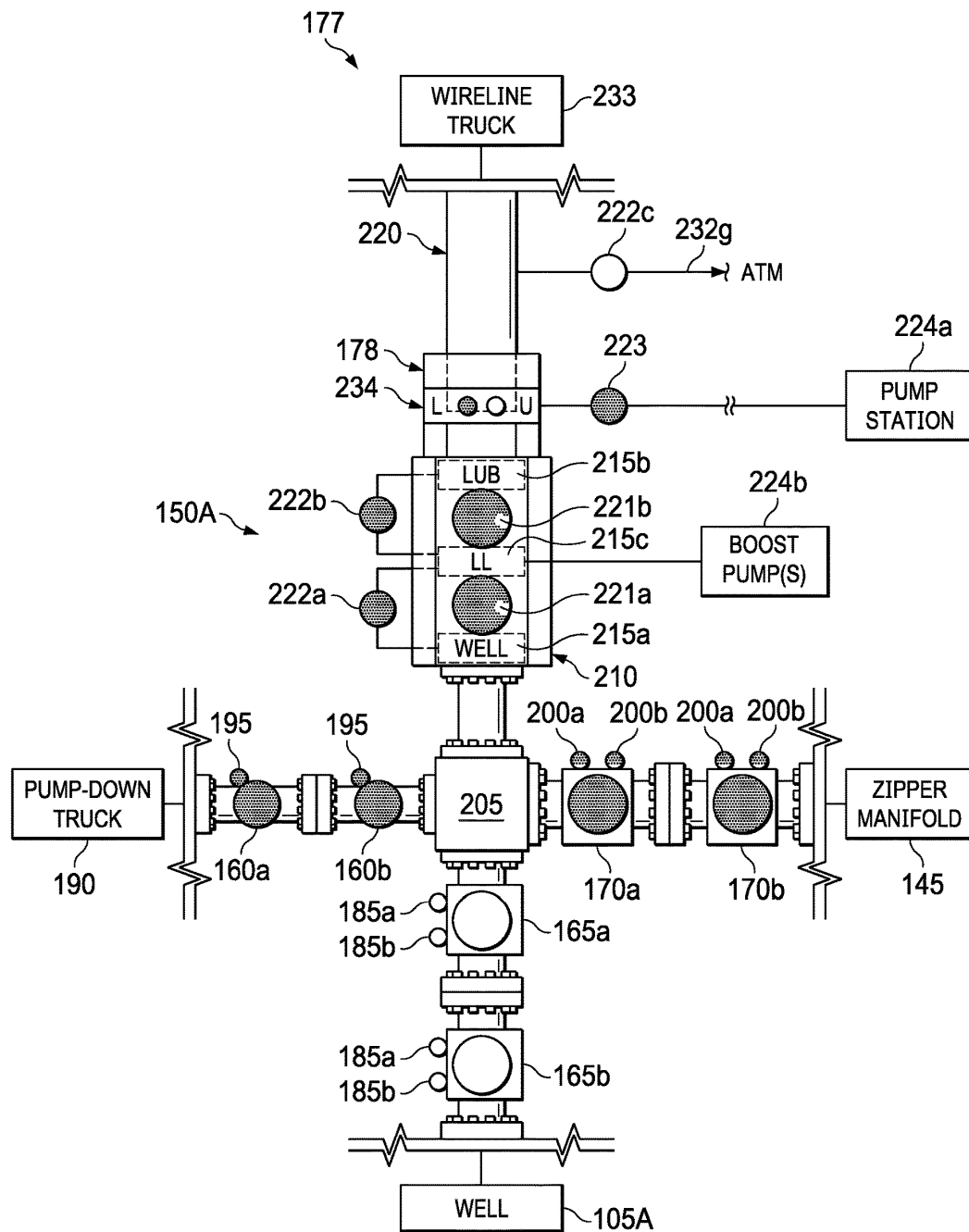


FIG. 7C

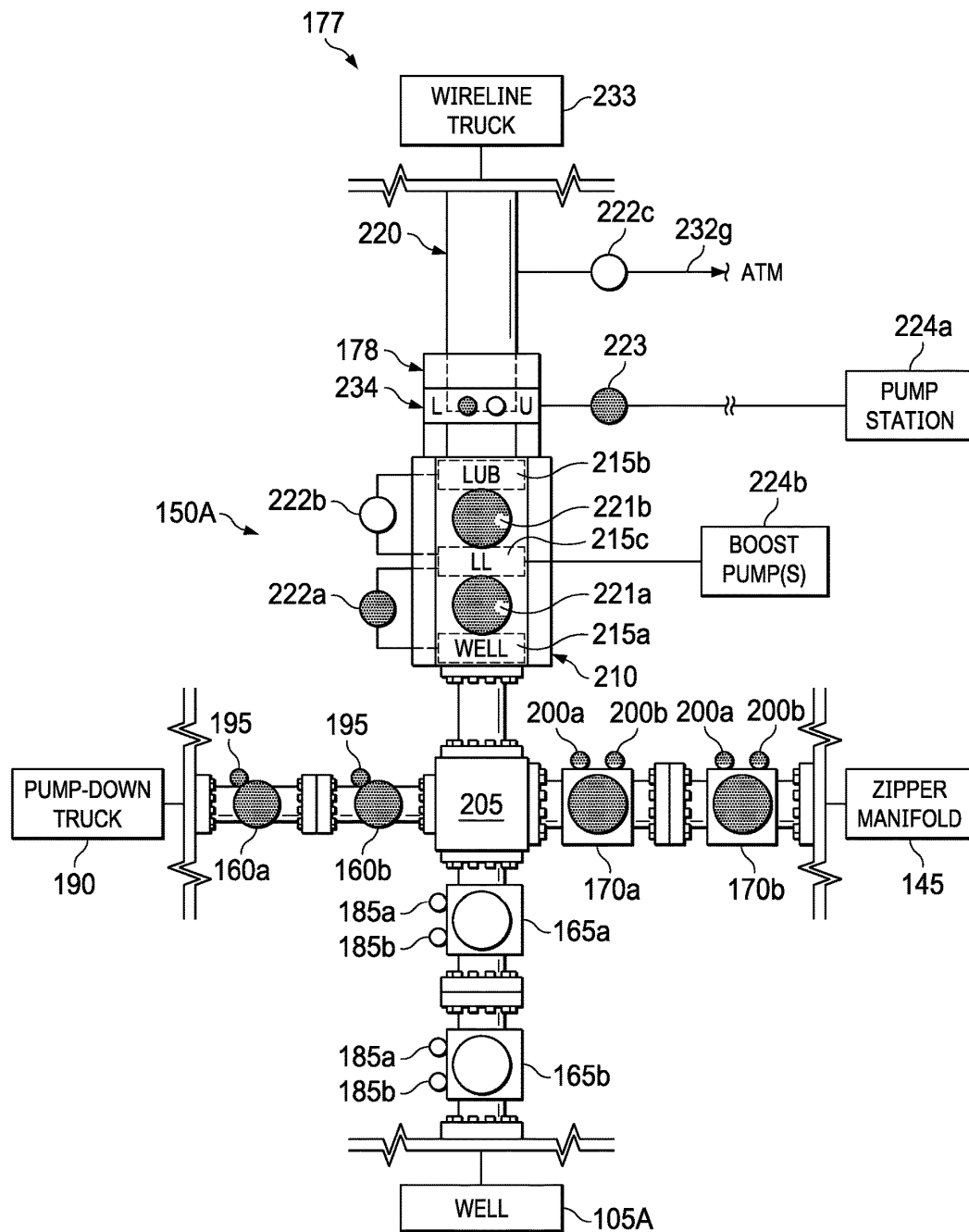


FIG. 7D

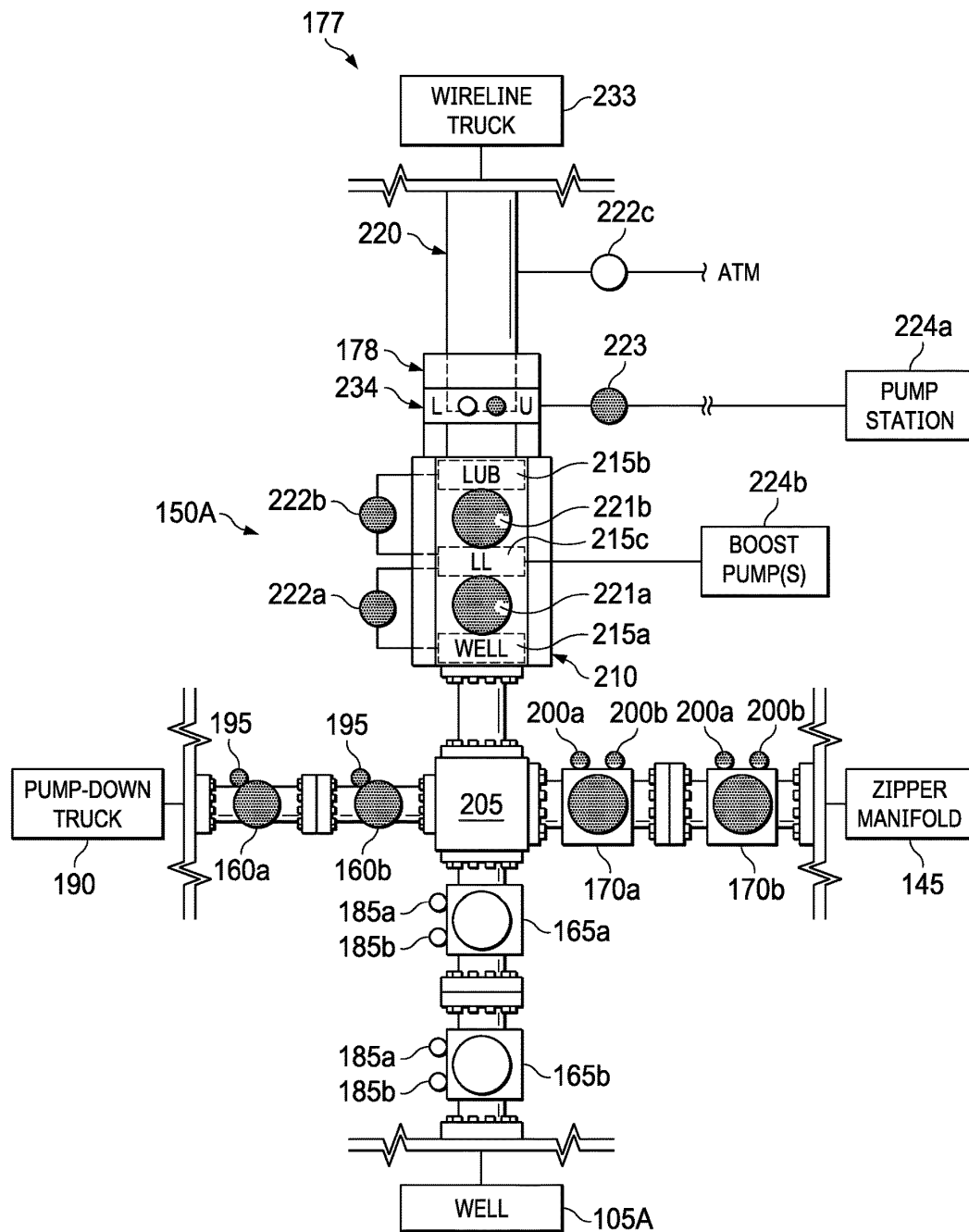


FIG. 7G

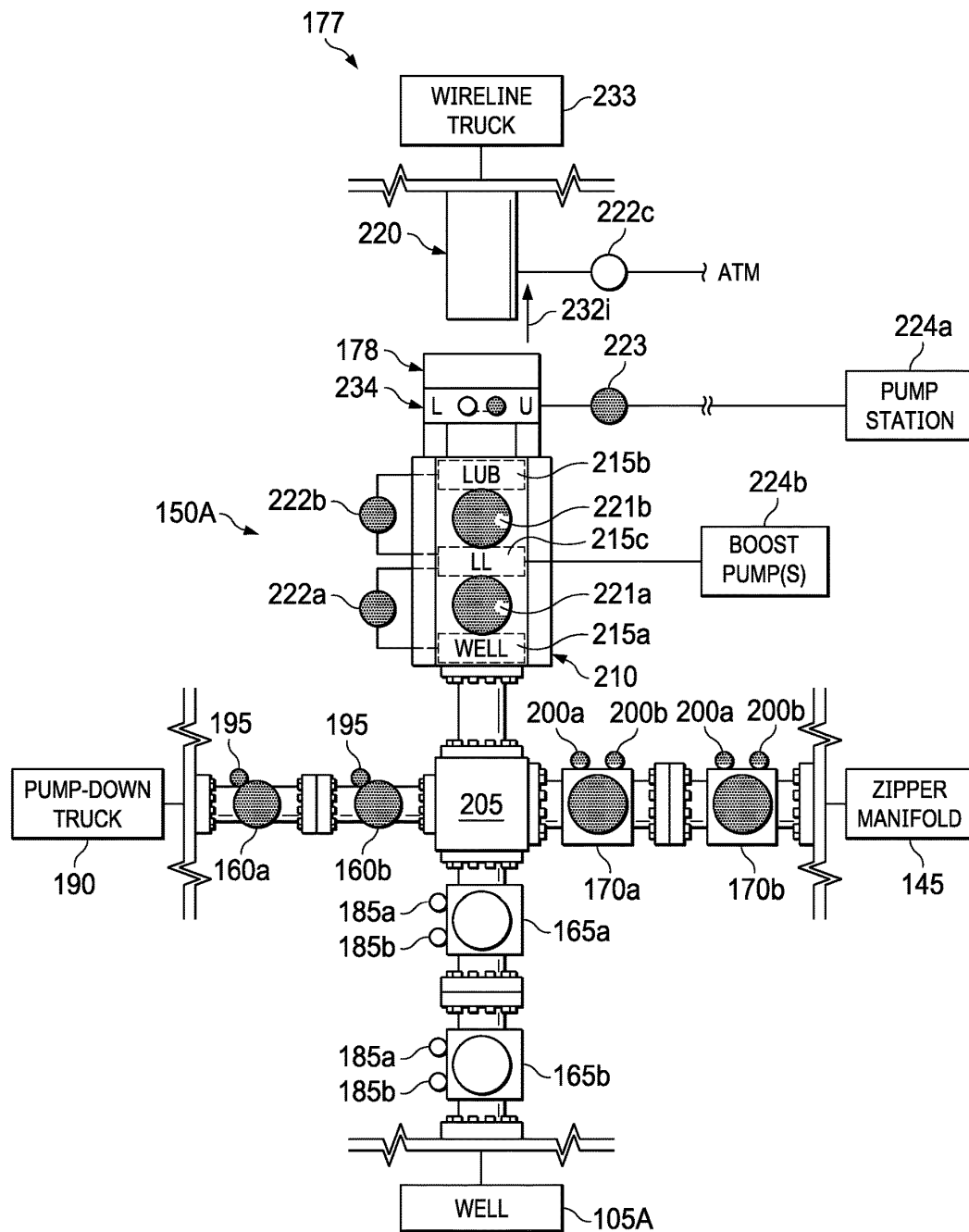


FIG. 7H

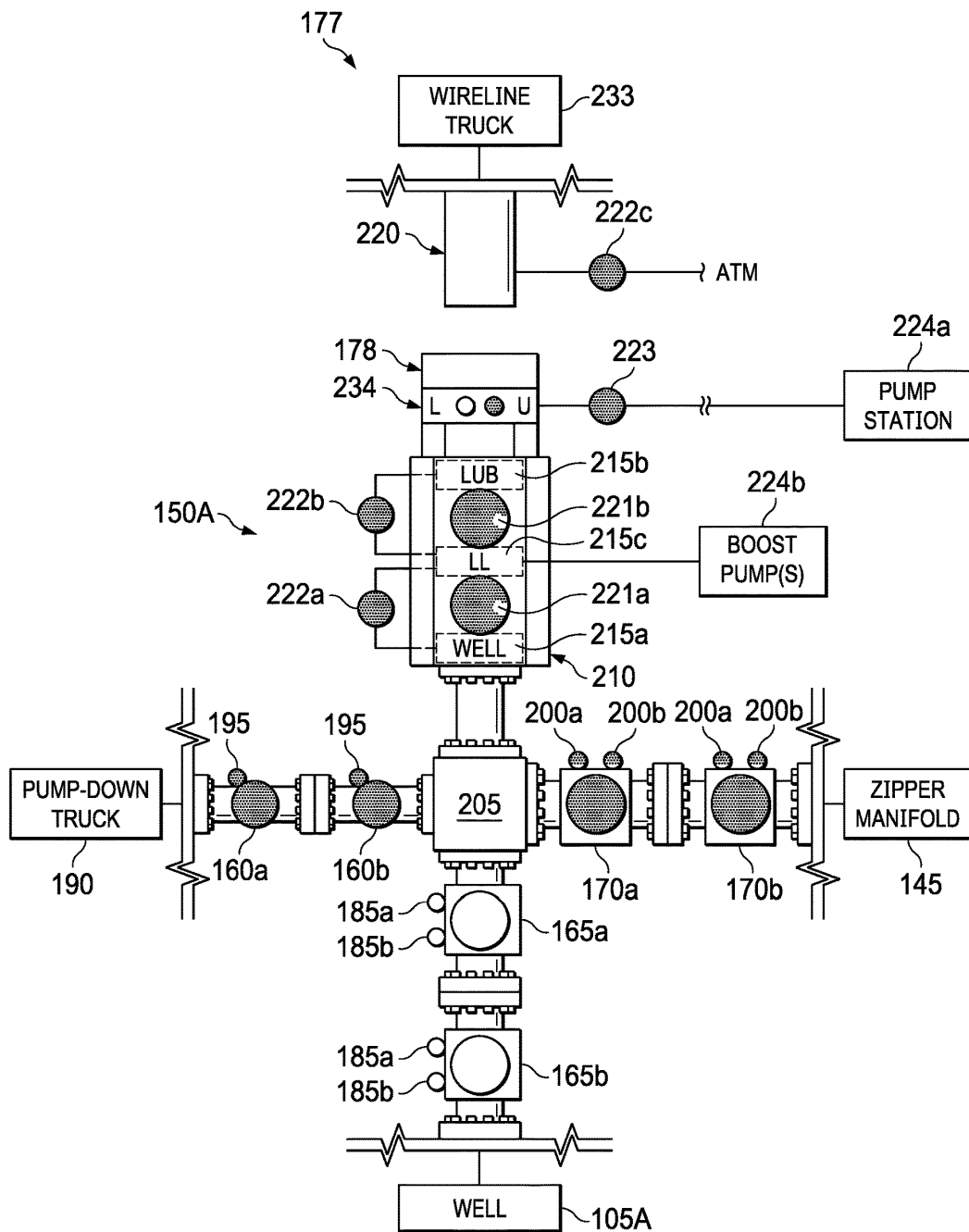


FIG. 7I

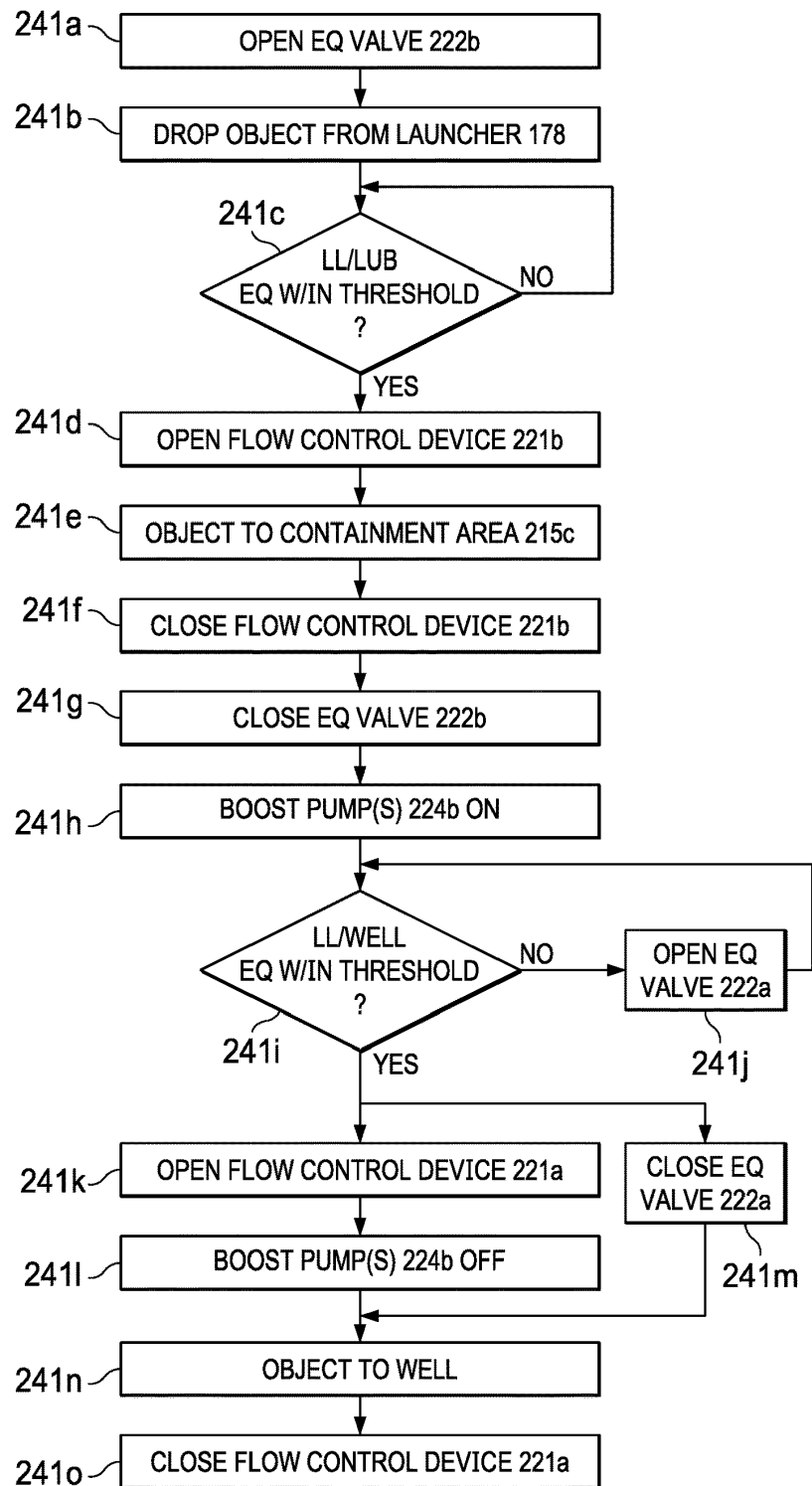


FIG. 8

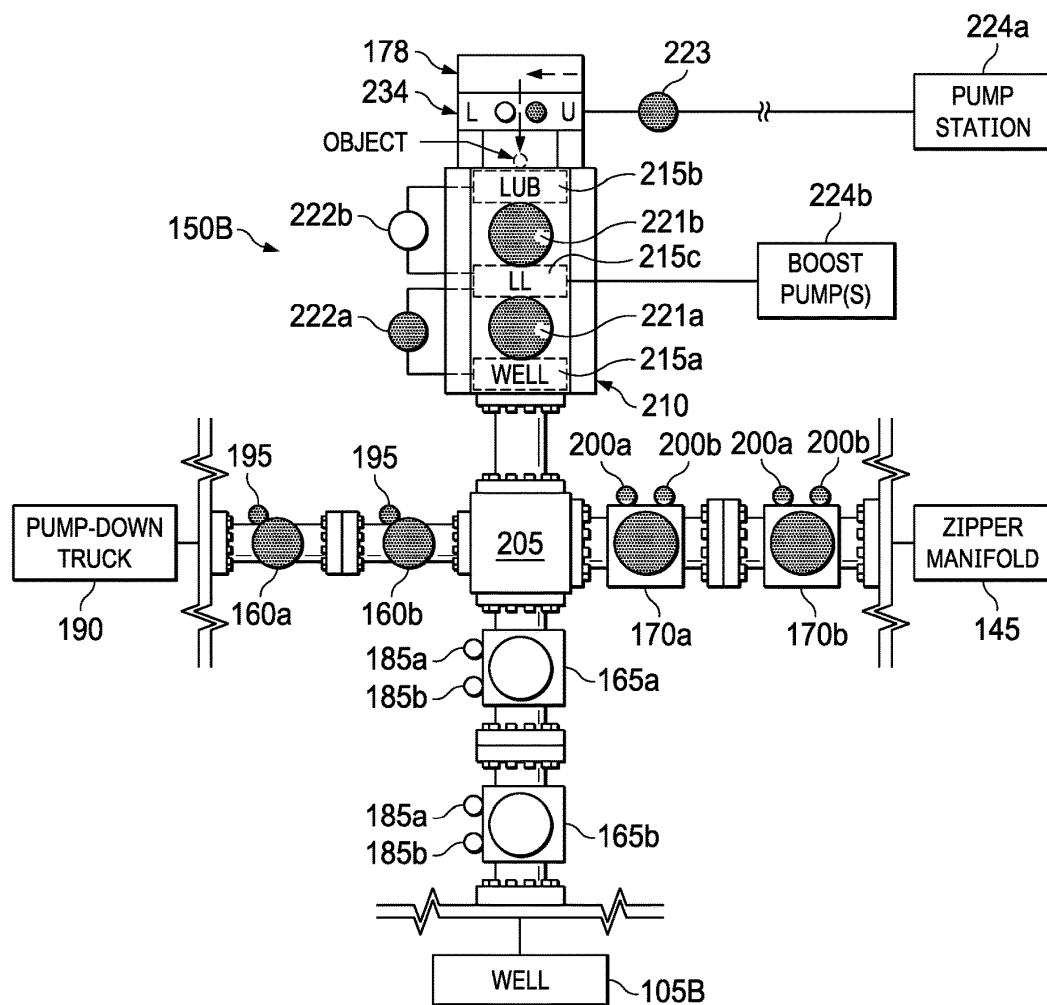


FIG. 9A

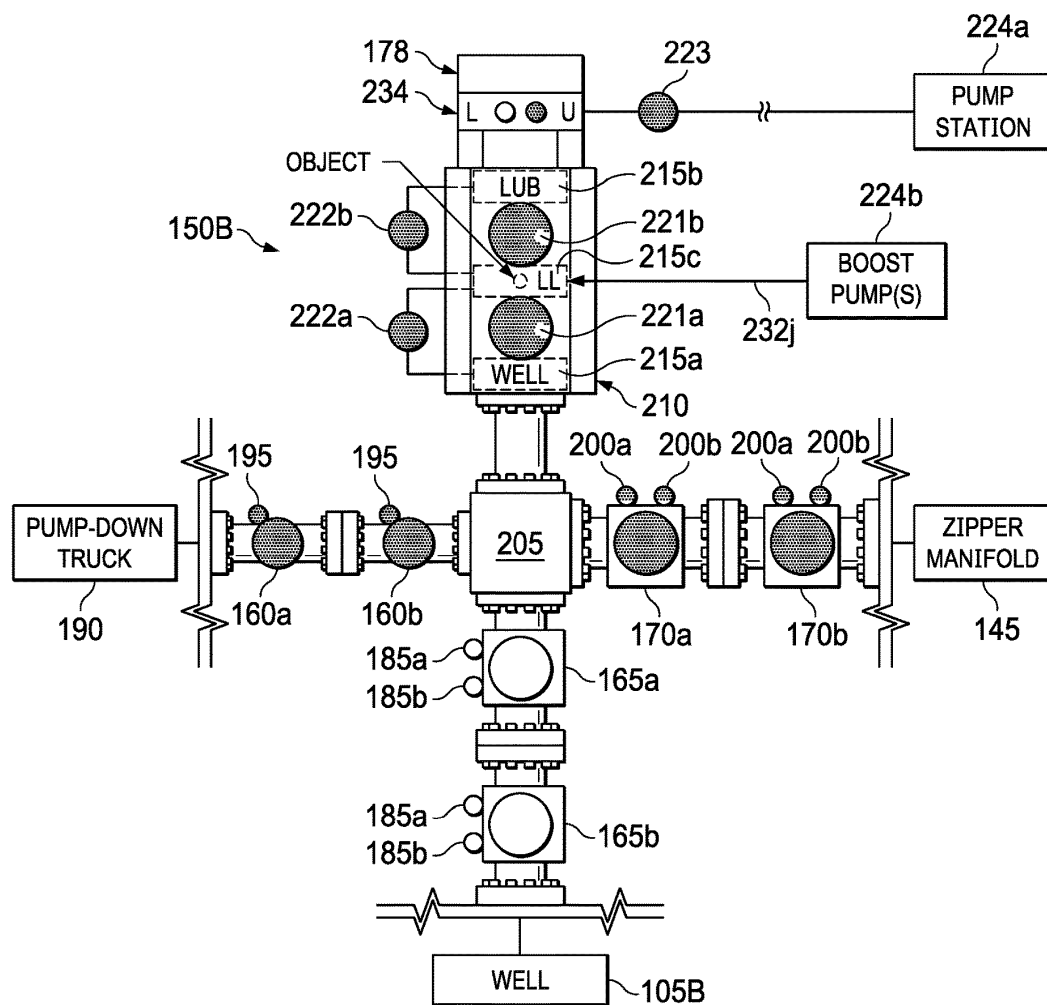


FIG. 9D

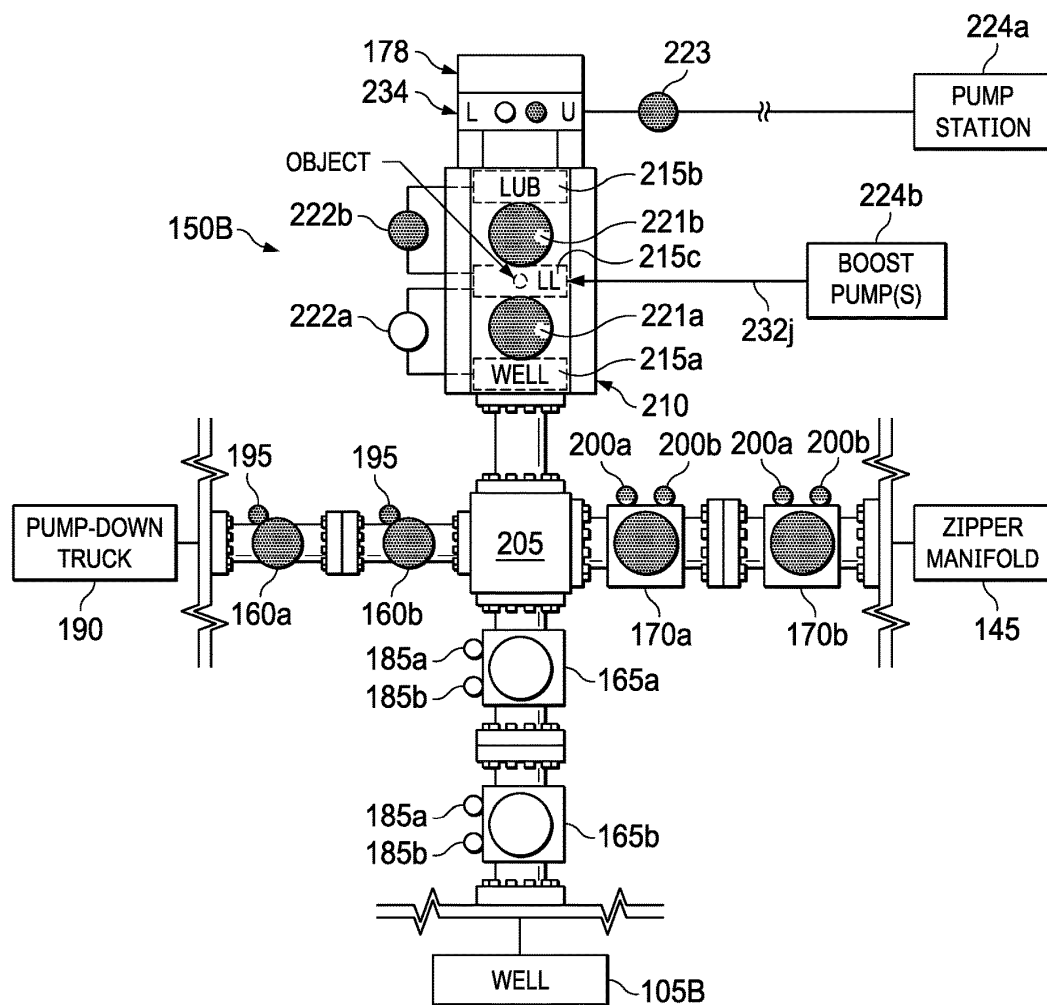


FIG. 9E

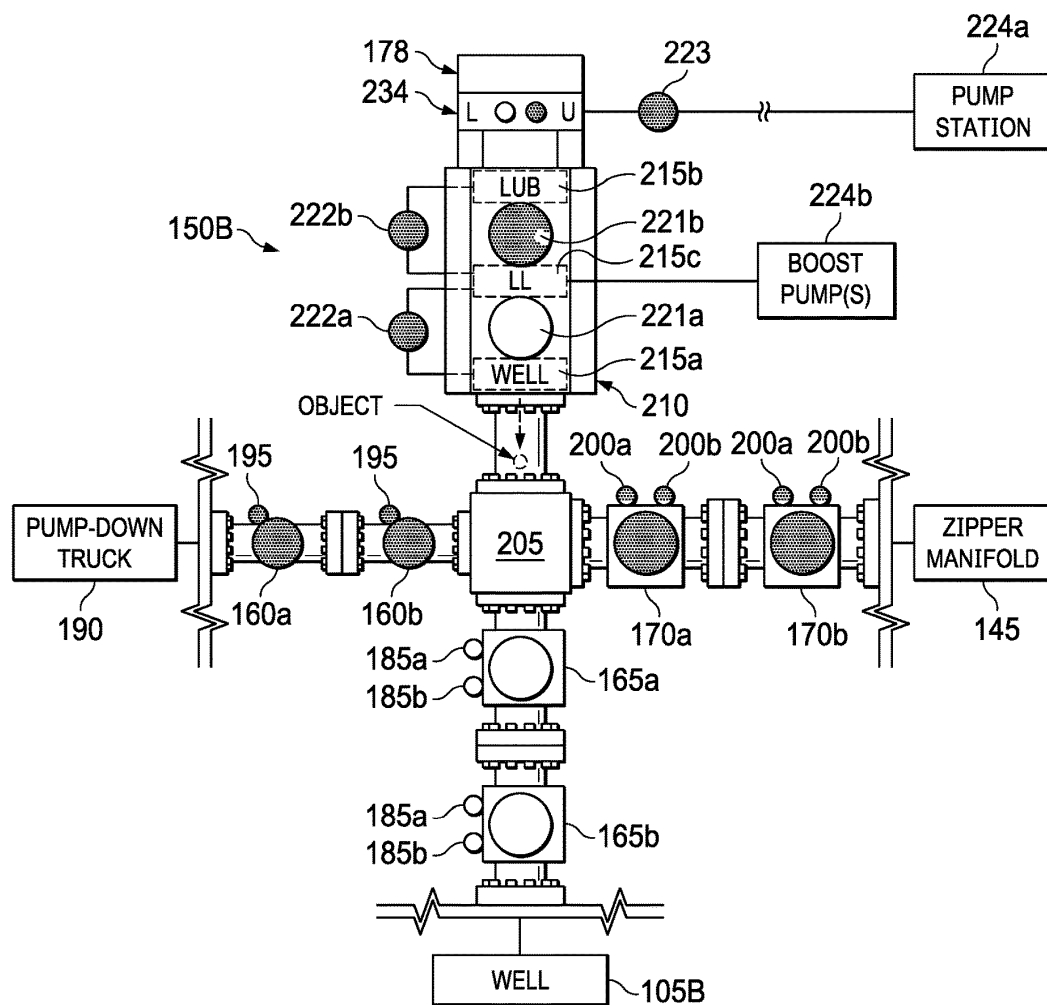


FIG. 9F

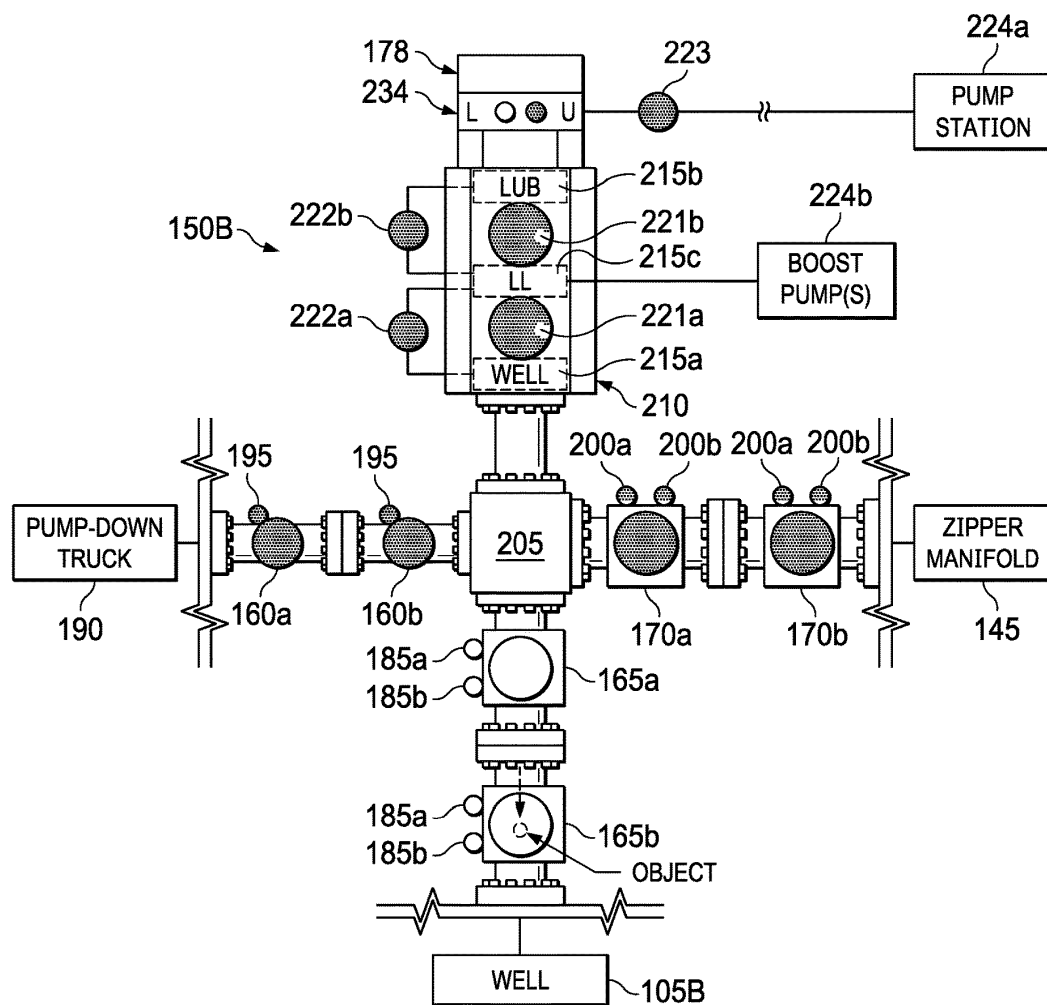


FIG. 9G

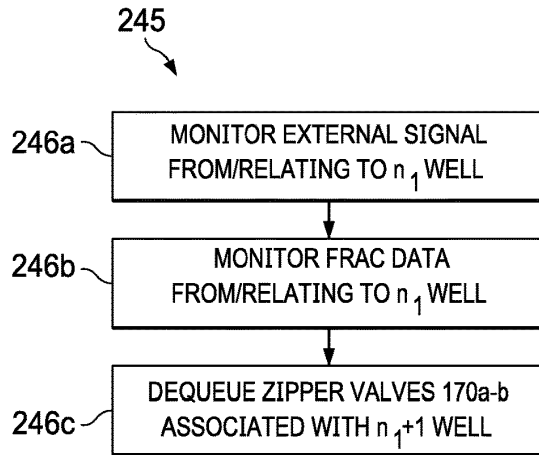


FIG. 10

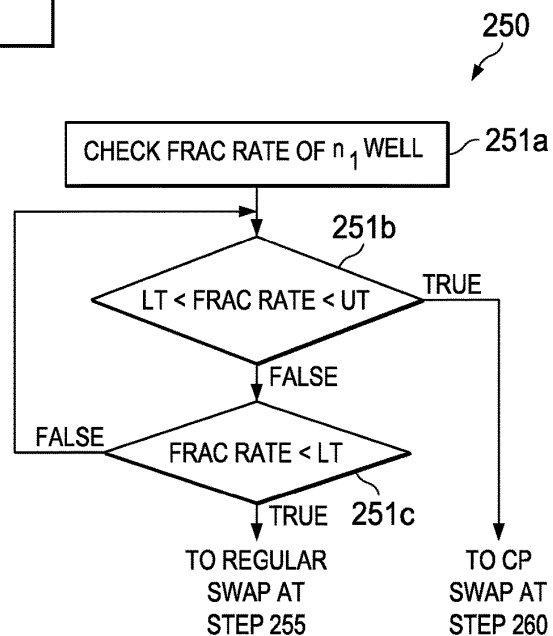


FIG. 12

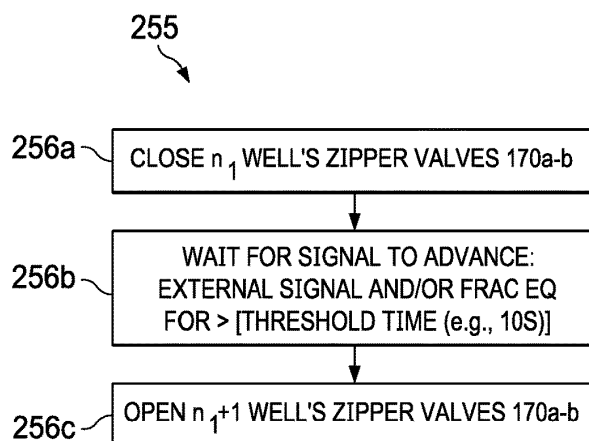


FIG. 13

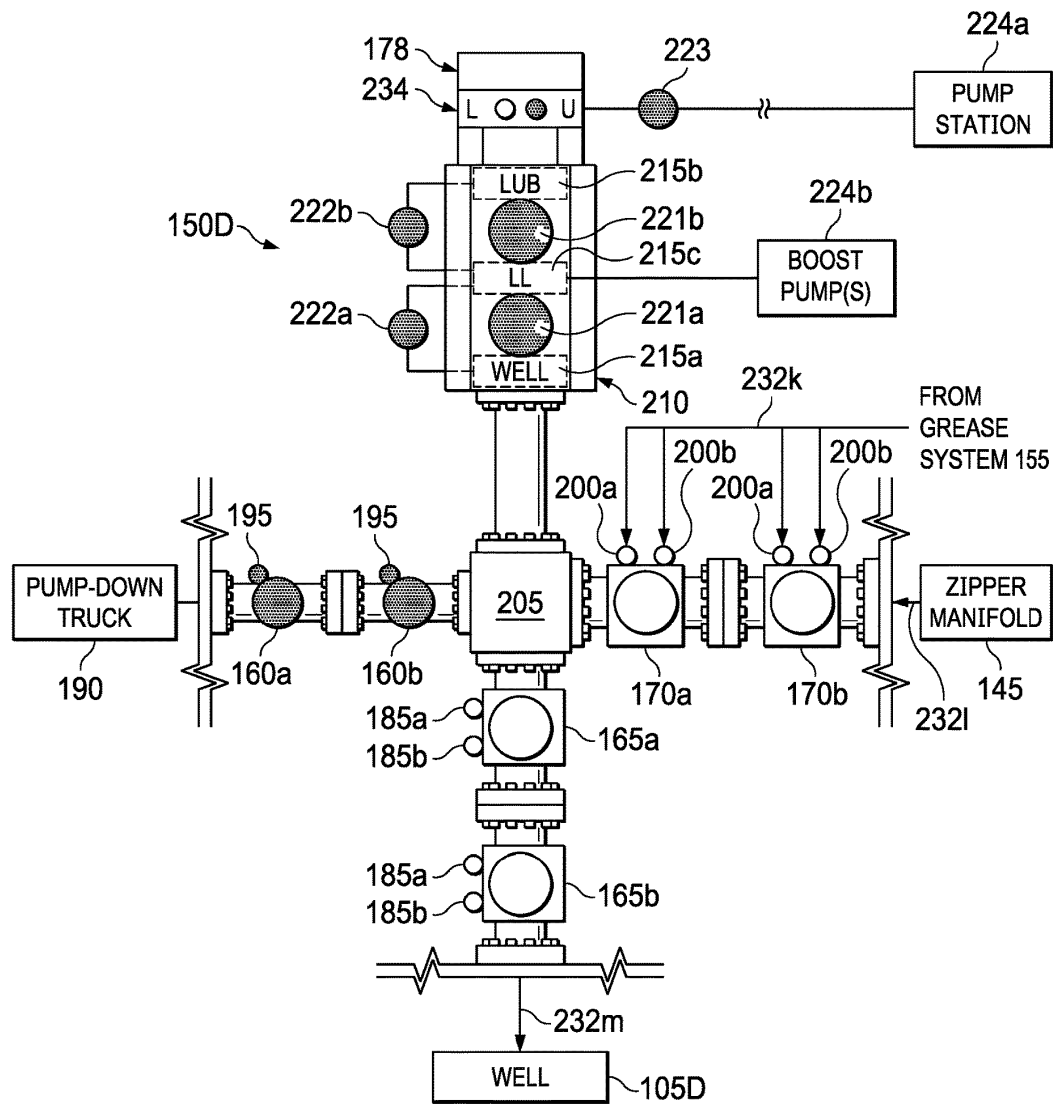


FIG. 11

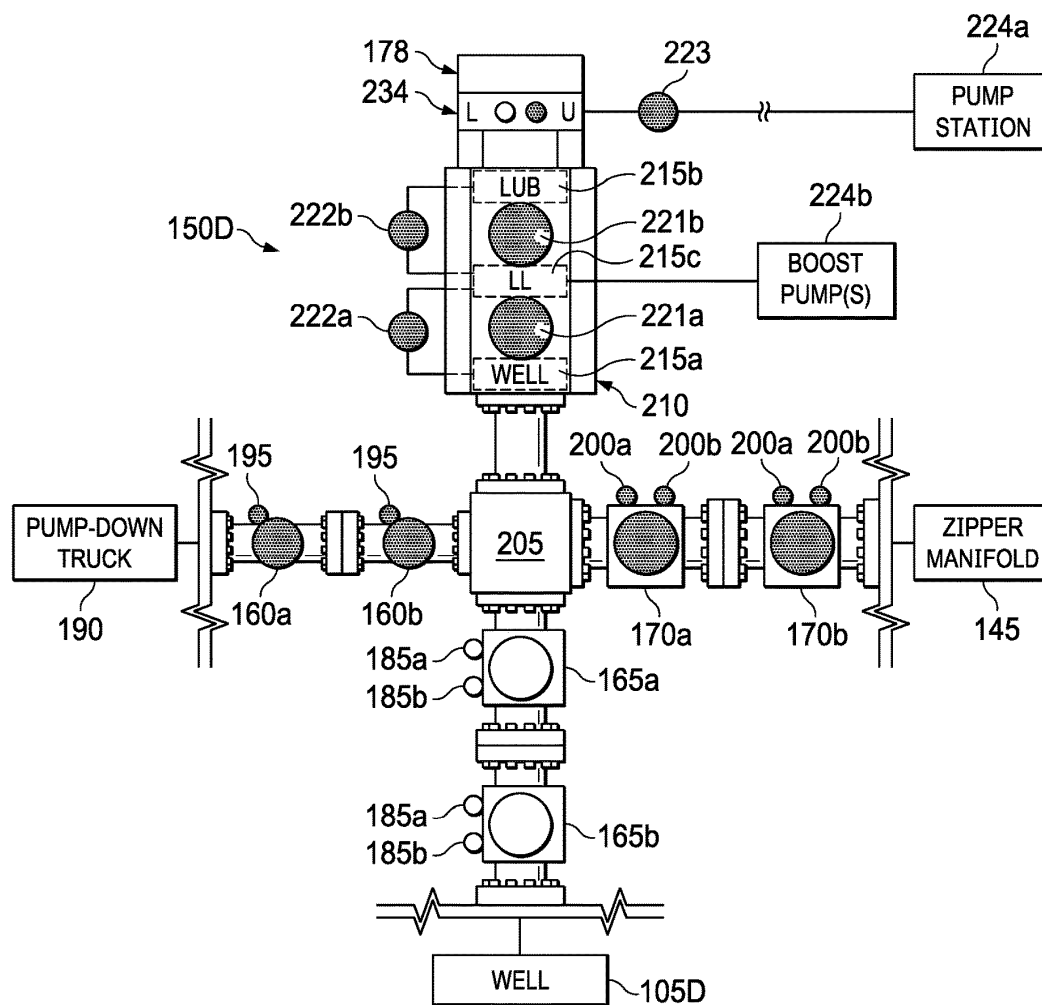


FIG. 14A

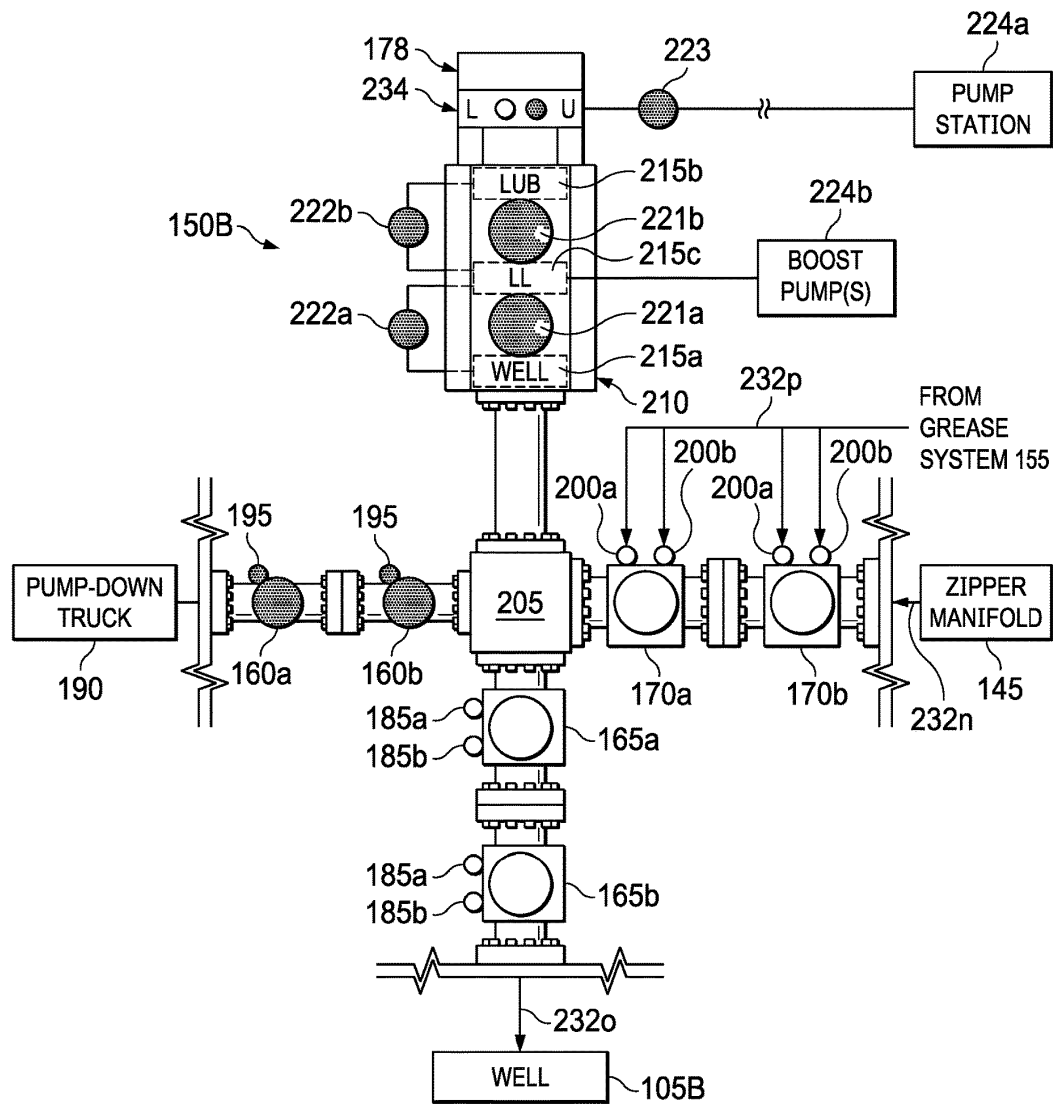


FIG. 14B

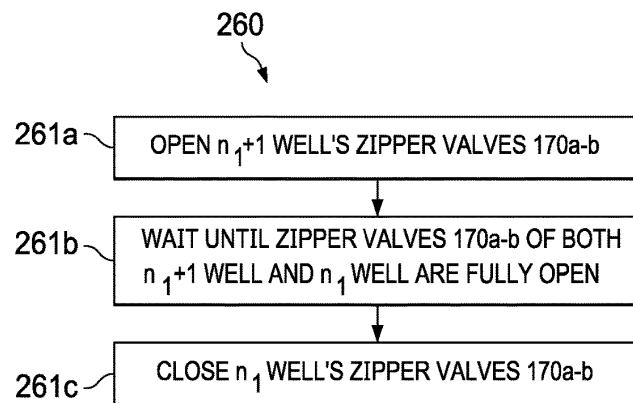


FIG. 15

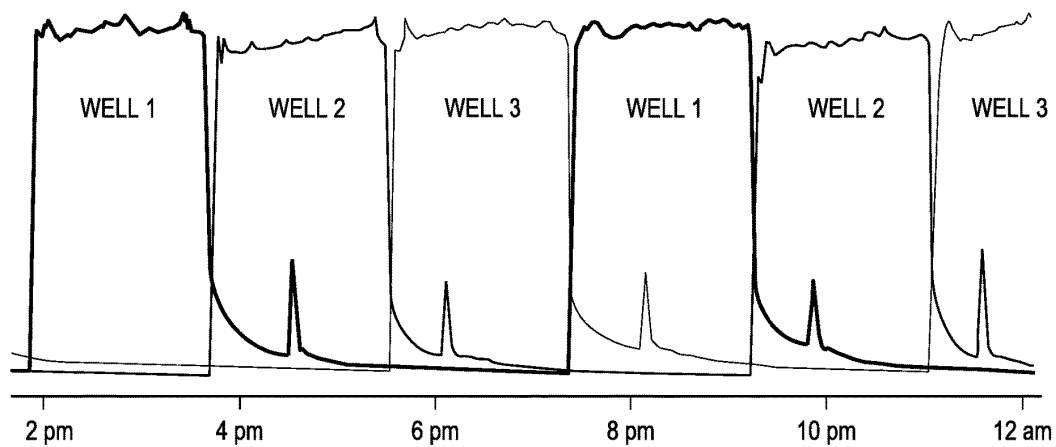


FIG. 16D

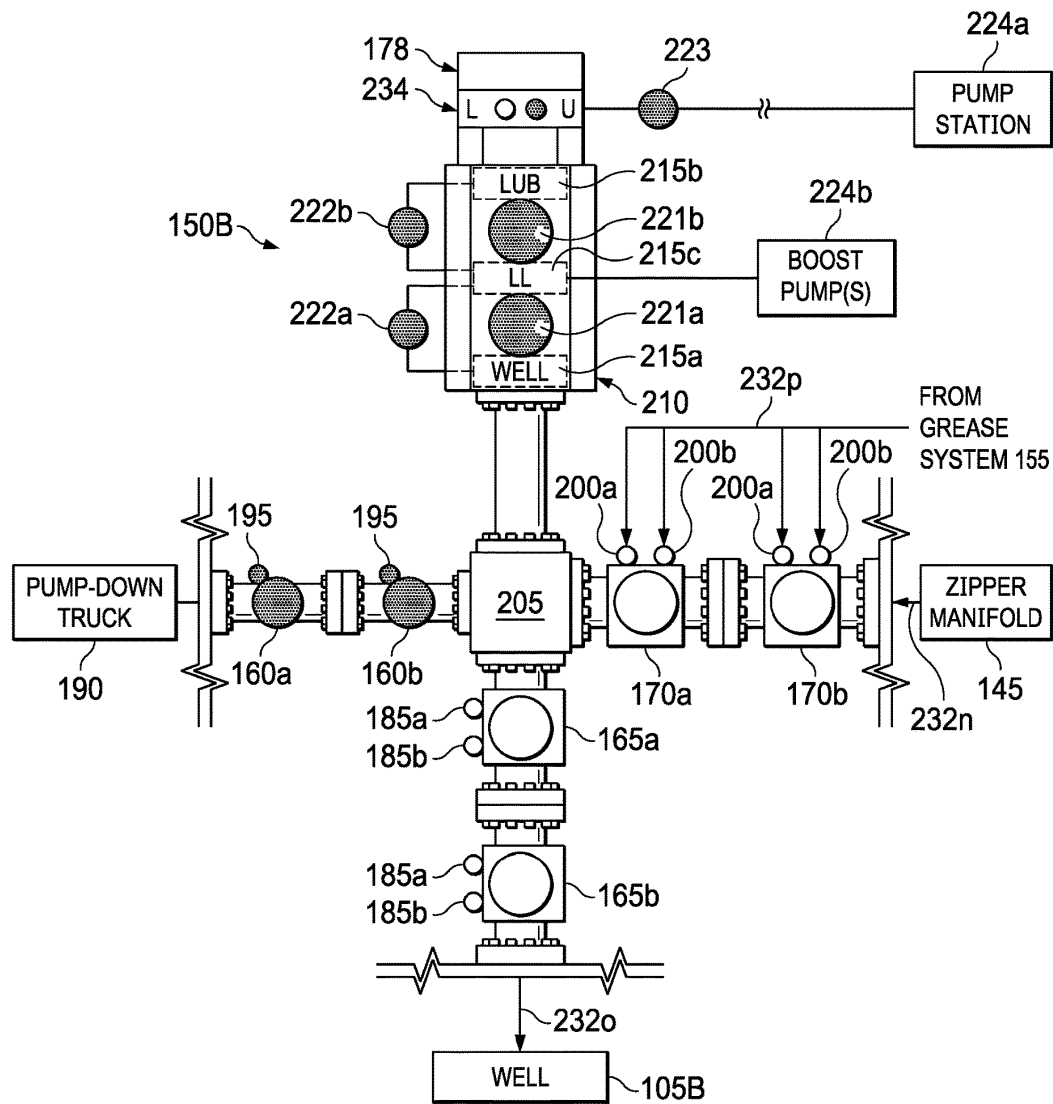


FIG. 16A

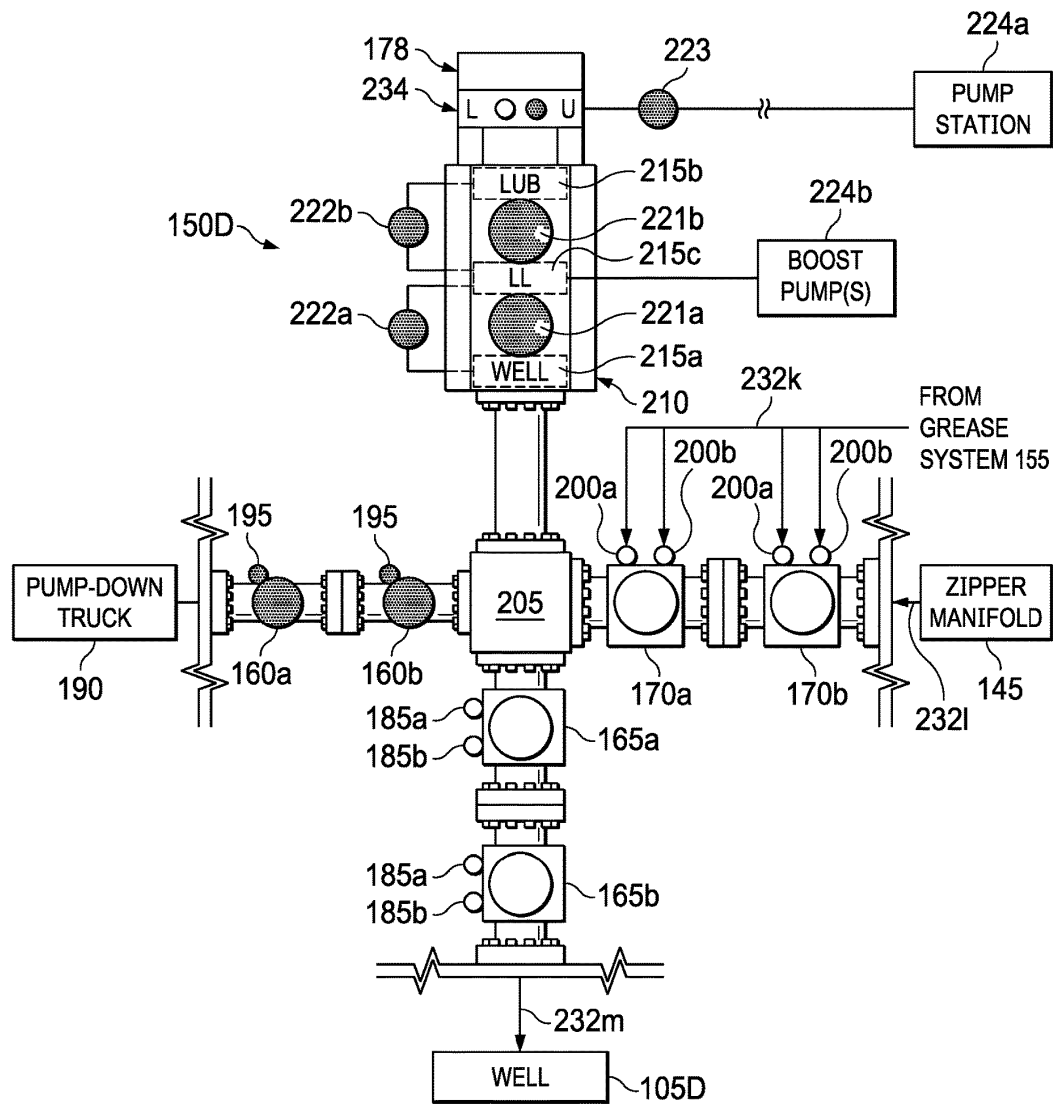


FIG. 16B

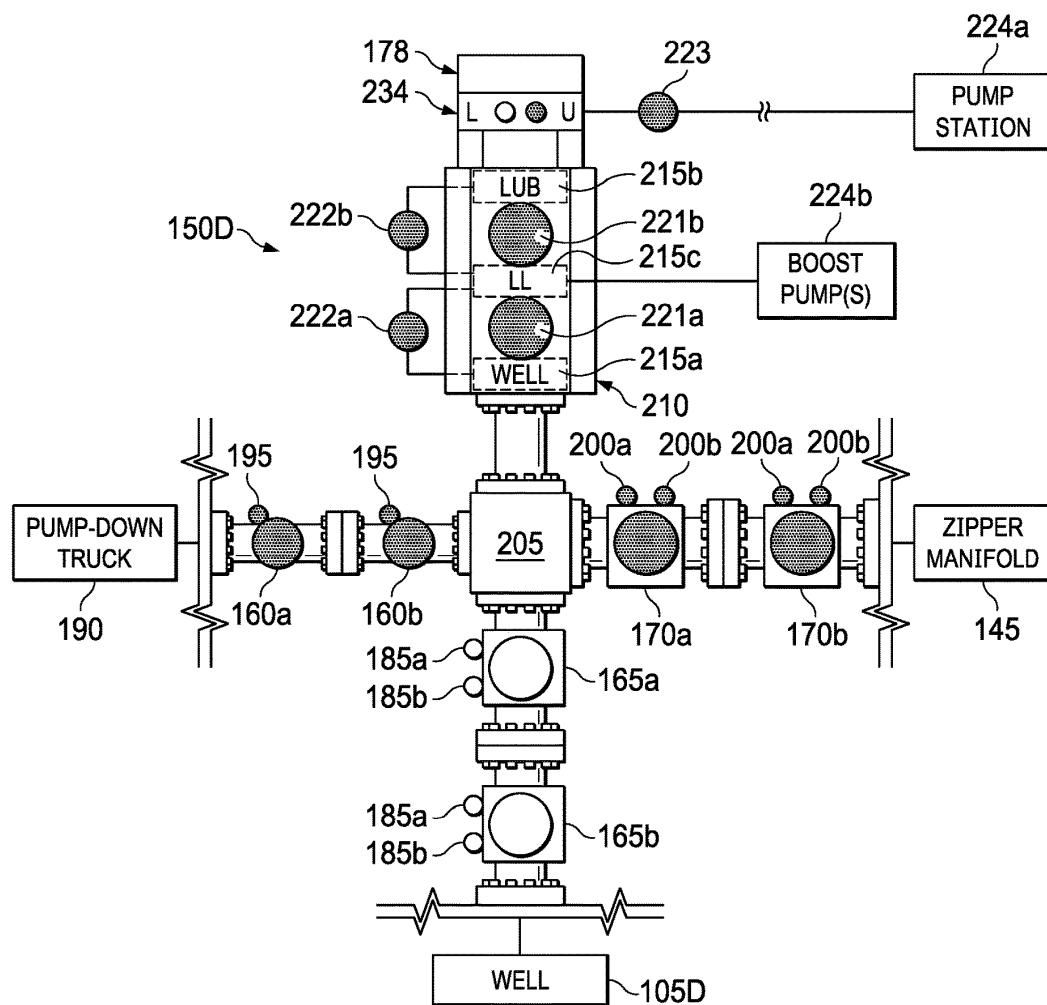
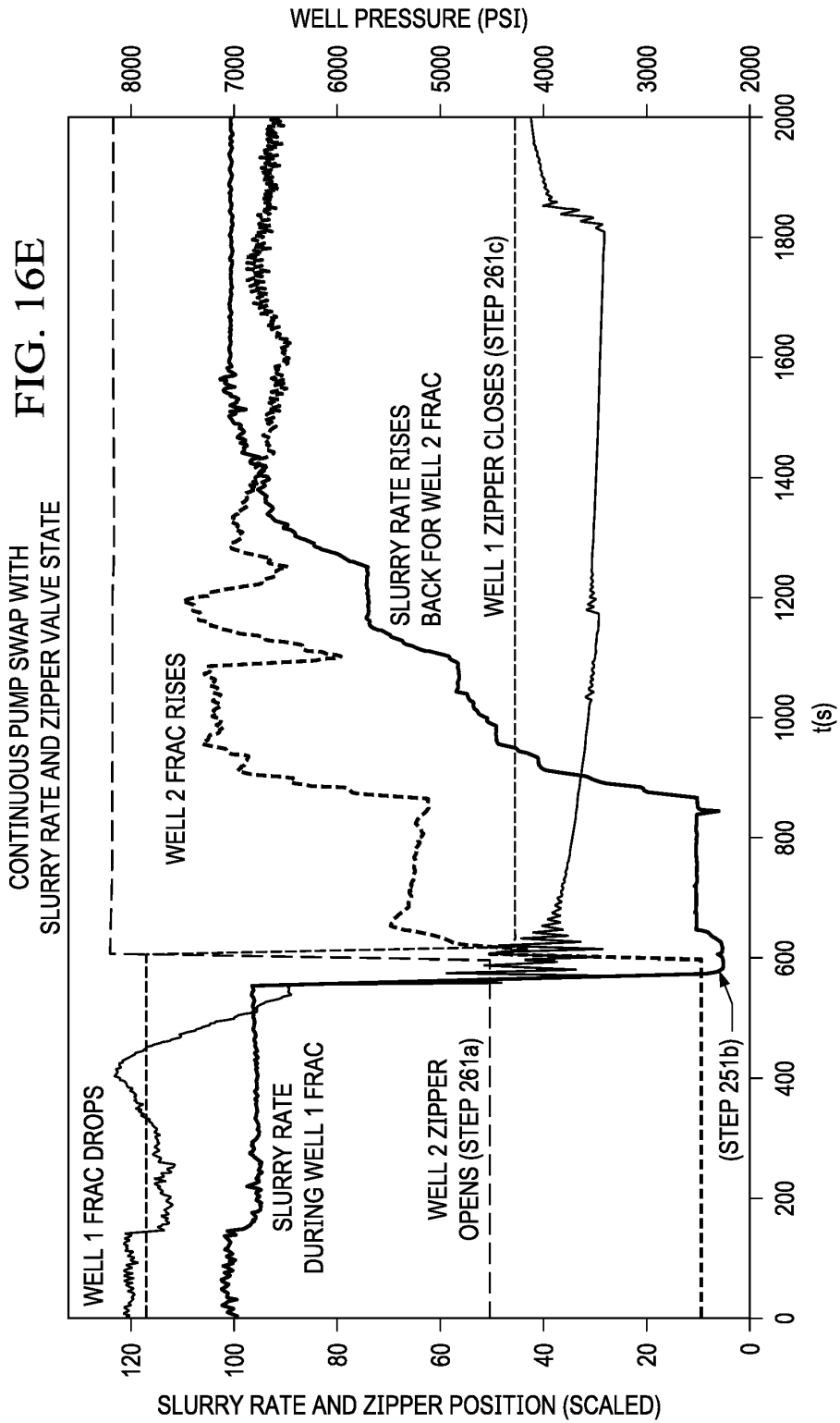


FIG. 16C



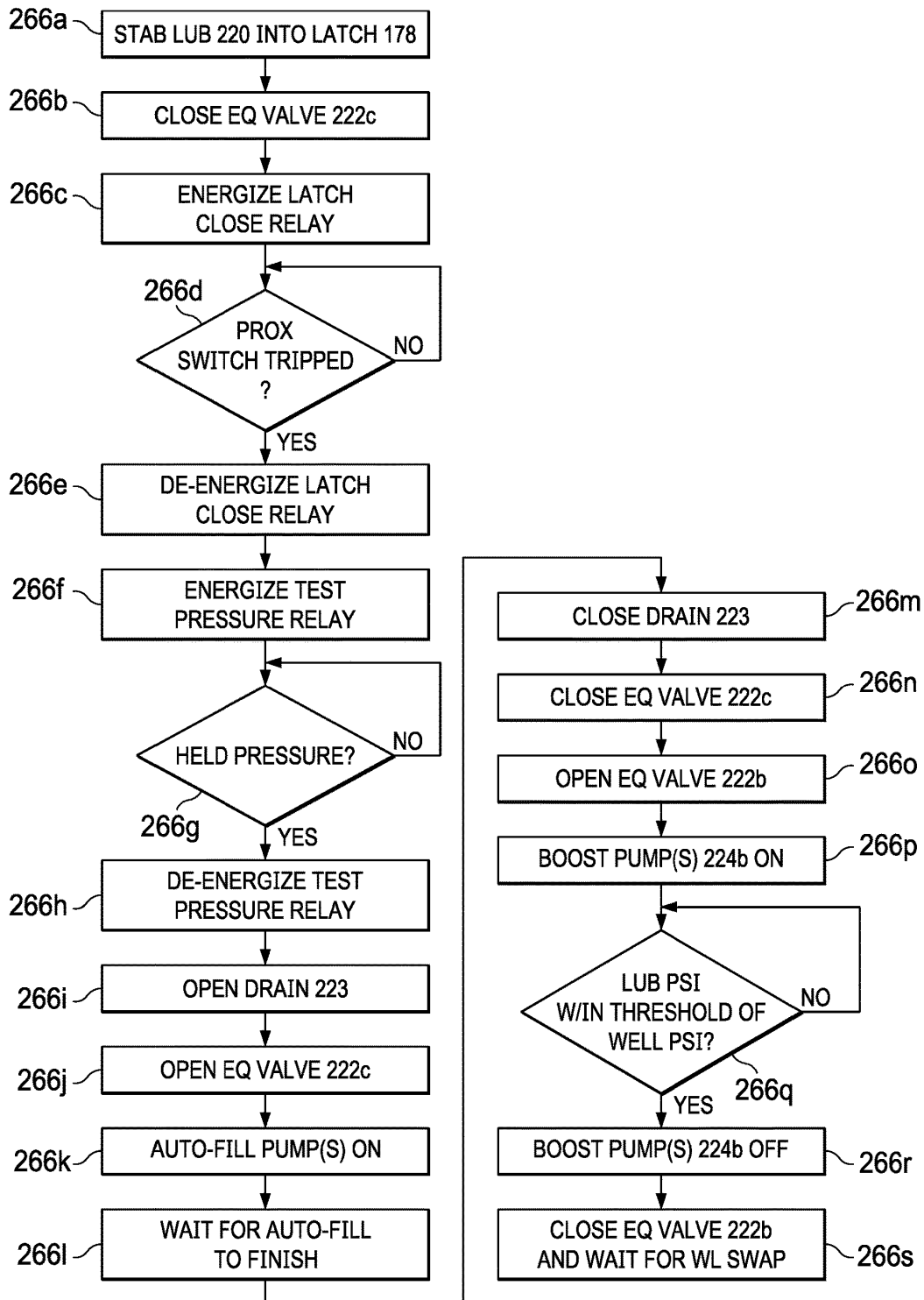


FIG. 17

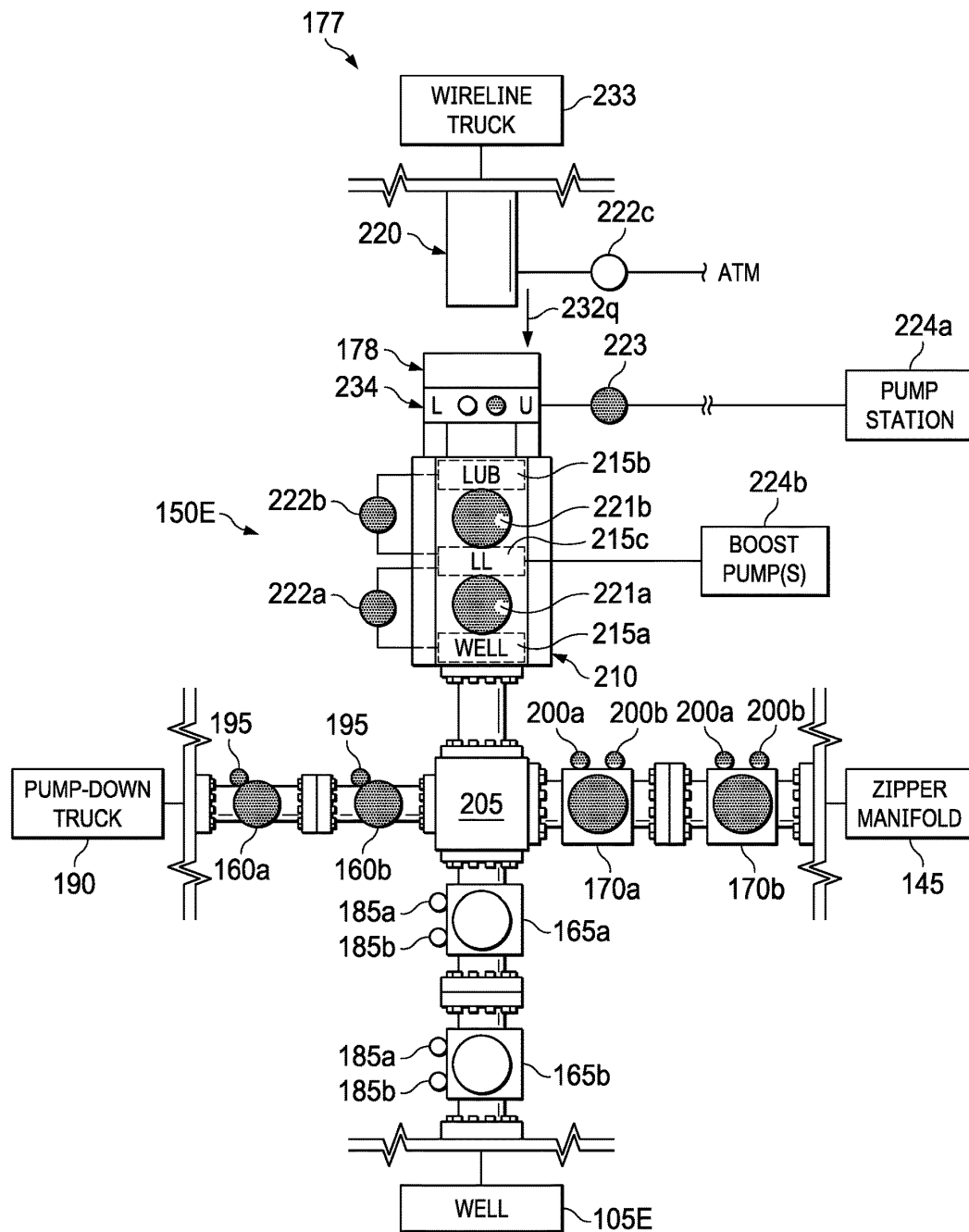


FIG. 18A

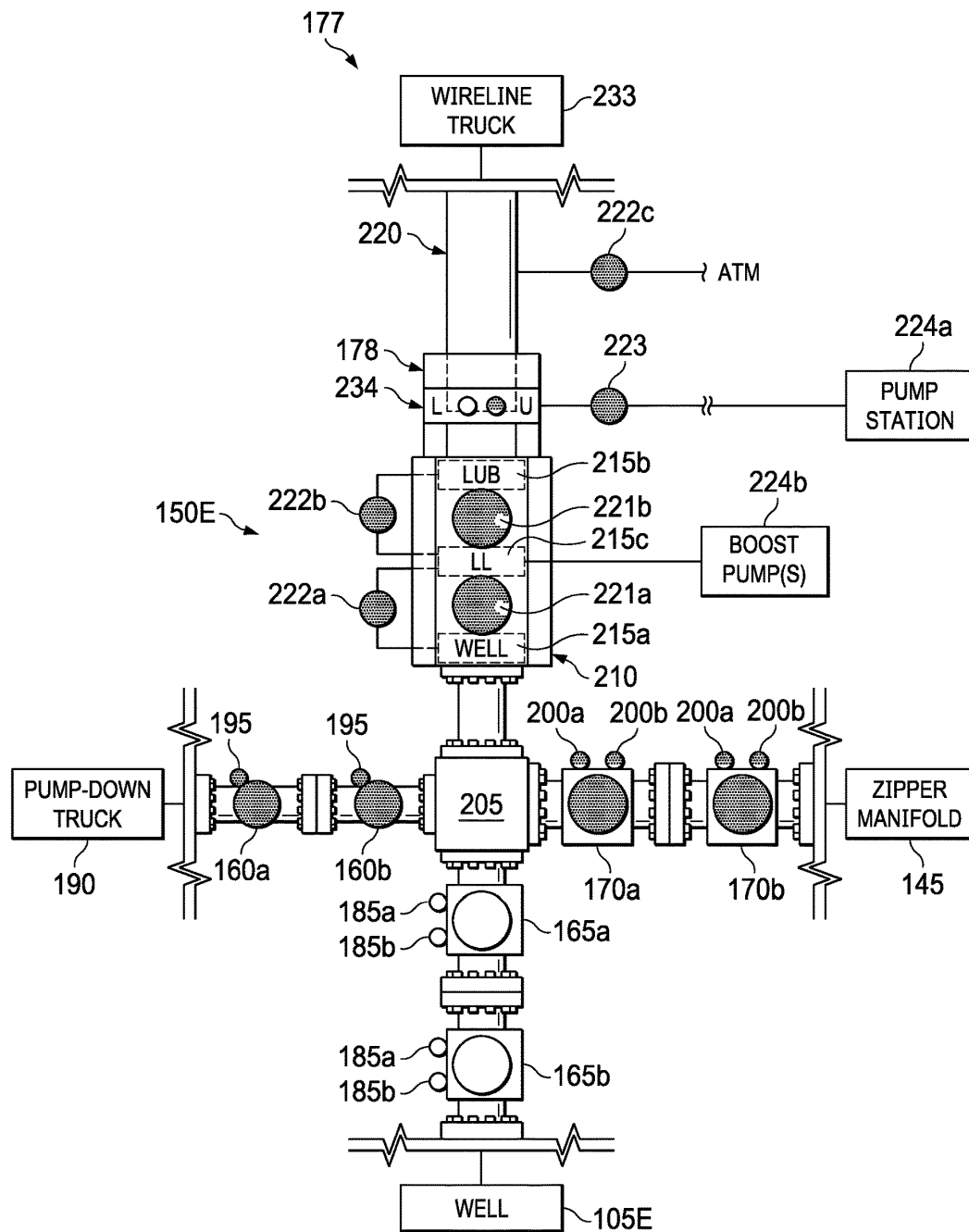


FIG. 18B

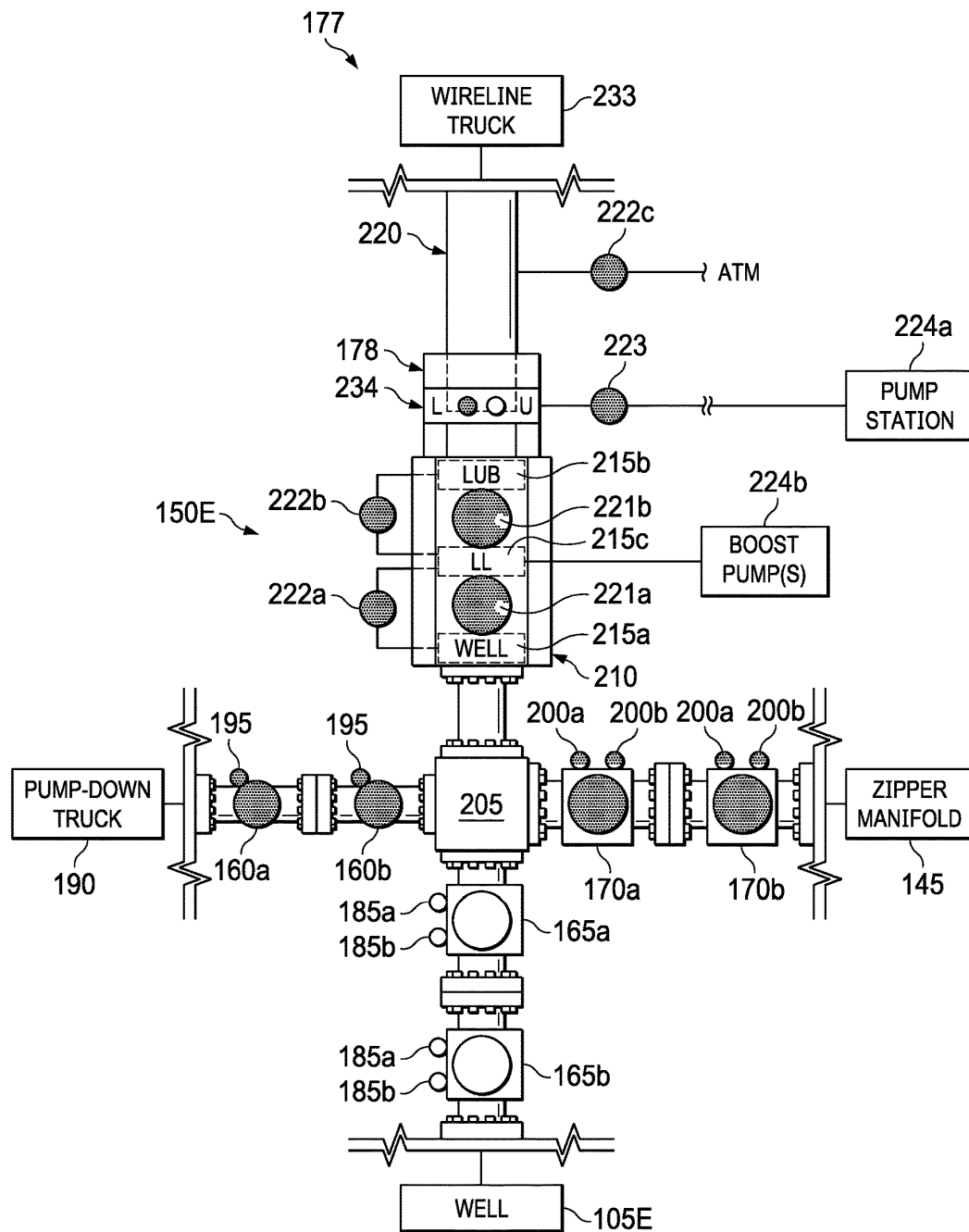


FIG. 18C

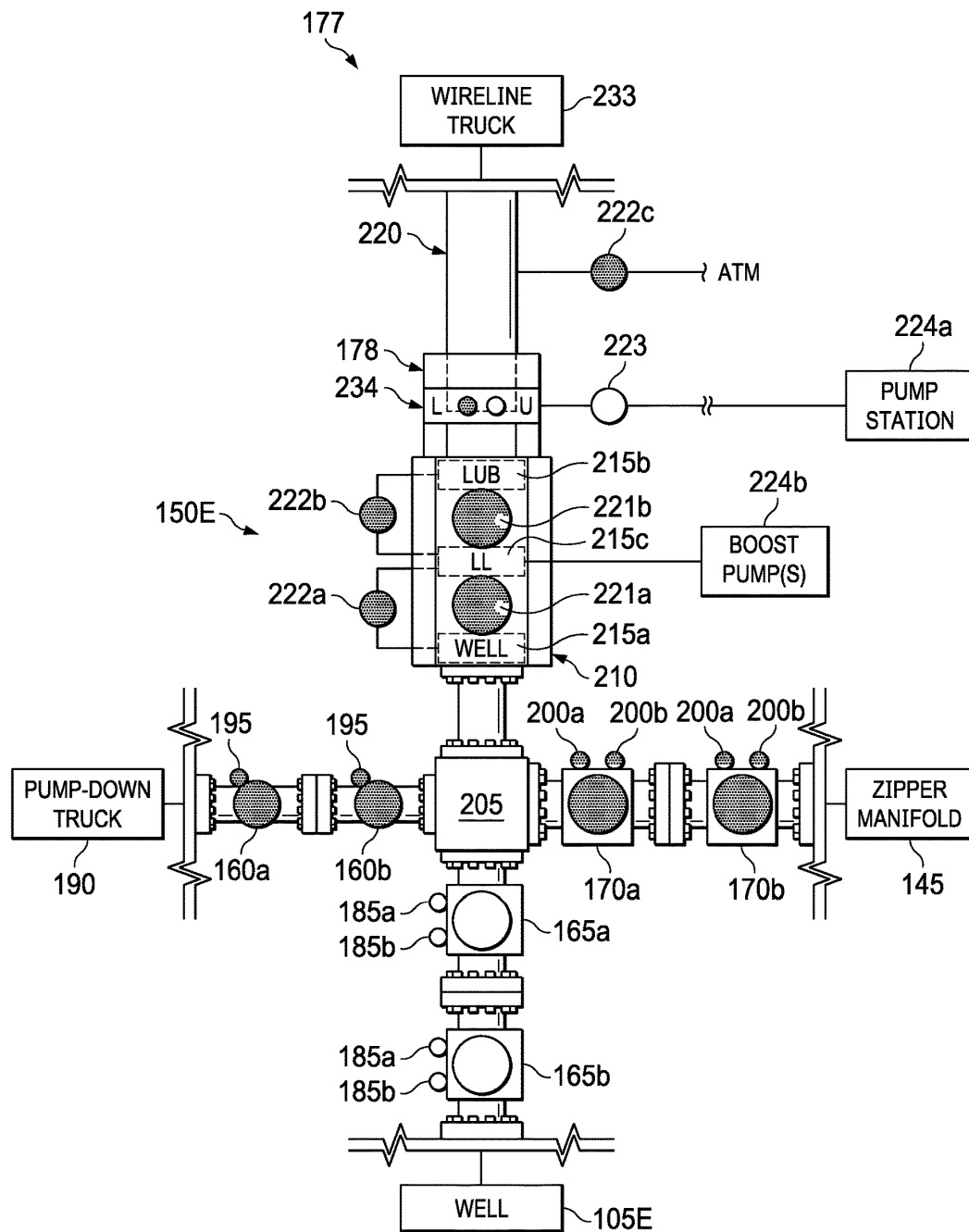


FIG. 18D

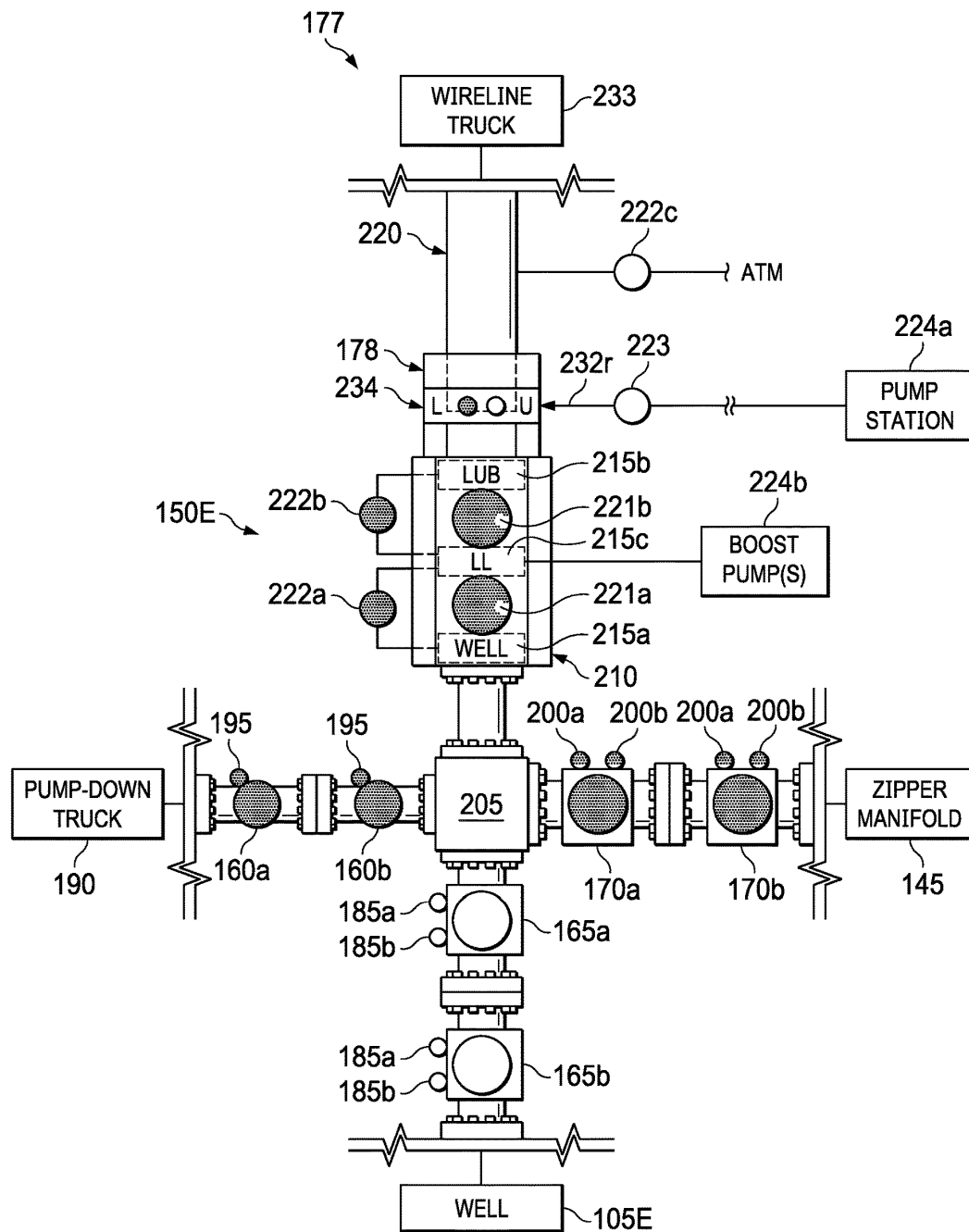


FIG. 18E

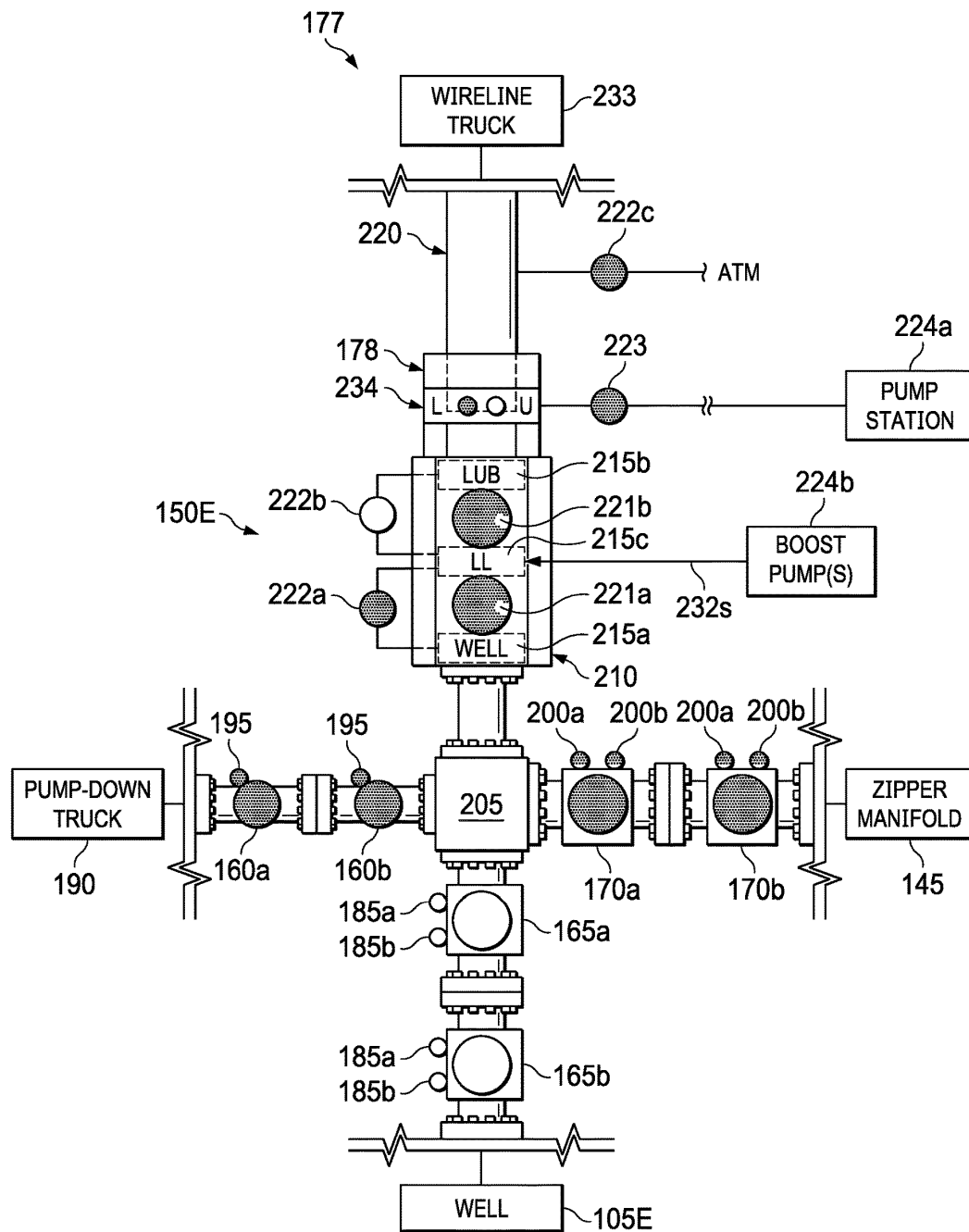


FIG. 18F

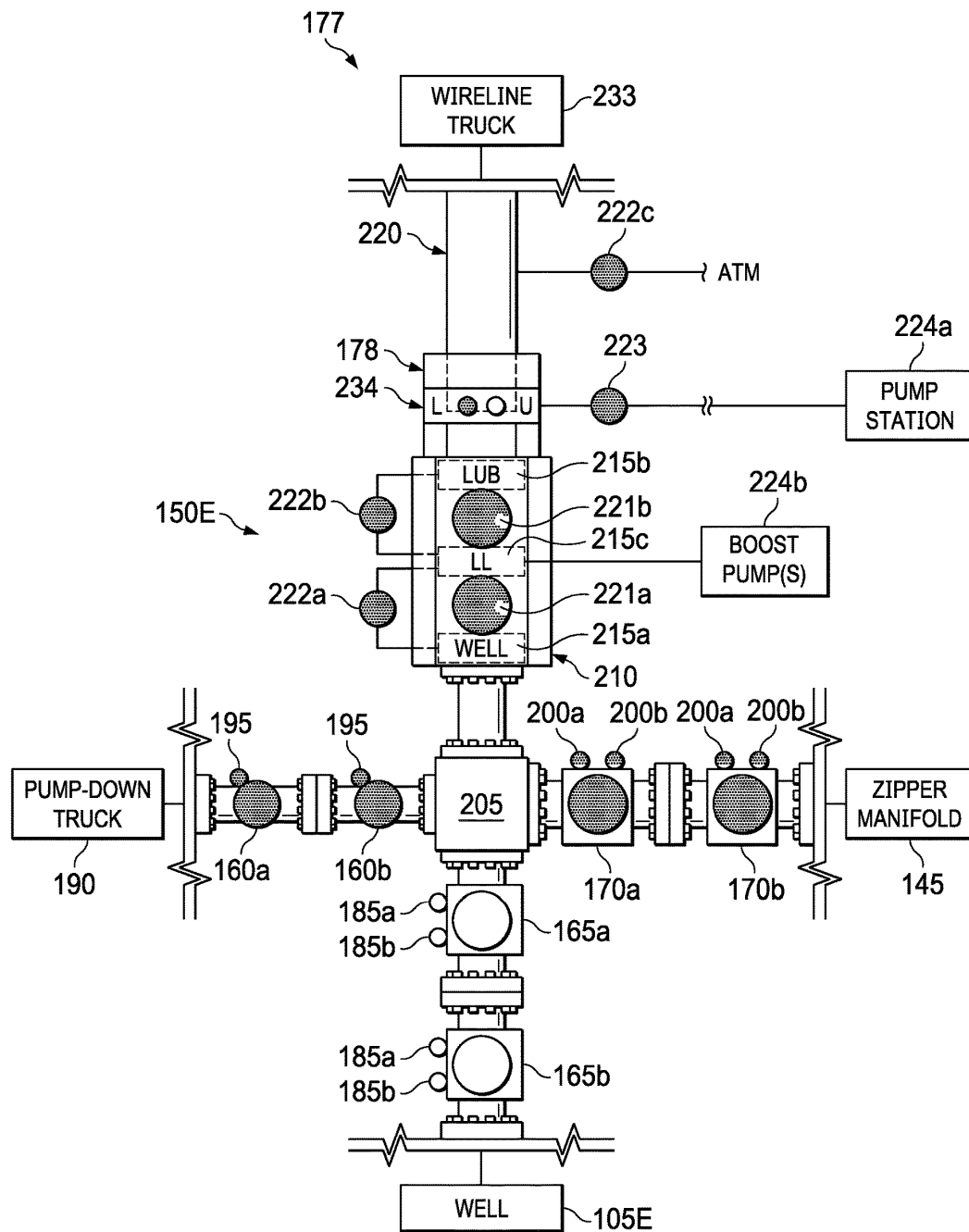


FIG. 18G

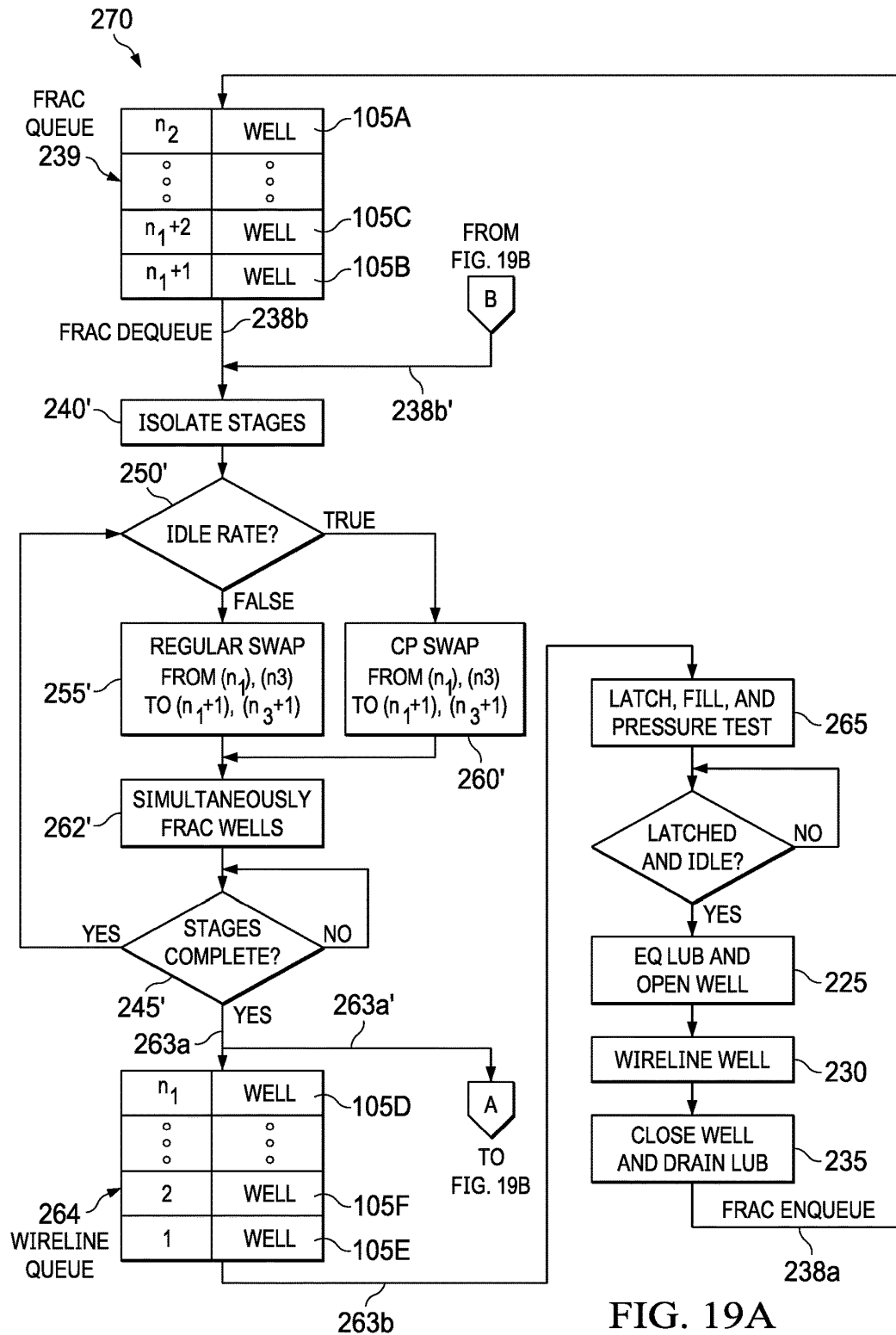


FIG. 19A

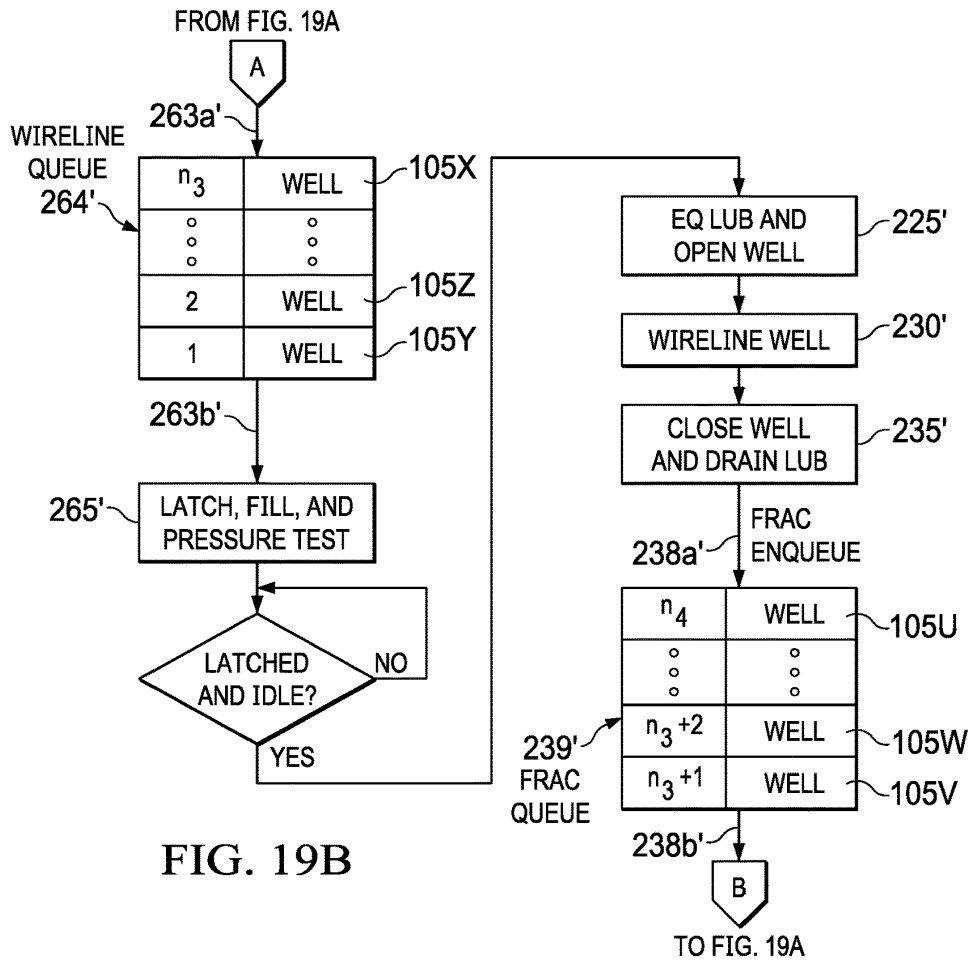


FIG. 19B

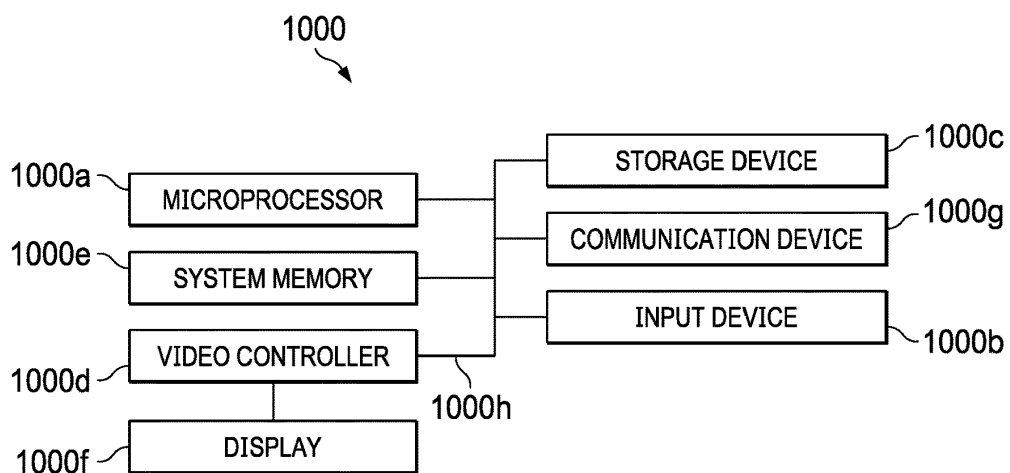


FIG. 20

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HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/388,716 (the “’716 Application”), filed Jul. 29, 2021, which claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 63/189,663, filed May 17, 2021, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The ’716 Application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/319,854 (the “’854 Application”), filed May 13, 2021, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The ’854 Application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/855,749 (the “’749 Application”), filed Apr. 22, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ’749 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/836,761, filed Apr. 22, 2019, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The ’749 Application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/248,648 (the “’648 Application”), filed Jan. 15, 2019, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,724,682, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ’648 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Application No. 62/617,443, filed Jan. 15, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The ’156 Application is also a CIP of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/803,156 (the “’156 Application”), filed Feb. 27, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ’156 Application is a CIP of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/248,633 (the “’633 Application”), filed Jan. 15, 2019, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,584,552, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ’633 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/617,438 (the “’438 Application”), filed Jan. 15, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The ’156 Application is also a CIP of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/436,623 (the “’623 Application”), filed Jun. 10, 2019, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ’623 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/755,170, filed Nov. 2, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The ’156 Application is also a CIP of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/100,741 (the “’741 Application”), filed Aug. 10, 2018, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,689,938, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ’741 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/638,688, filed Mar. 5, 2018, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/638,681, filed Mar. 5, 2018, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/637,220, filed Mar. 1, 2018, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/637,215, filed Mar. 1, 2018, and U.S. Patent Application No. 62/598,914, filed Dec. 14, 2017, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

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The ’749 Application is related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/801,911, filed Feb. 26, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The ’716 Application is also related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/360,336, filed Jun. 28, 2021, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

This application relates generally to oil and gas hydraulic fracturing operations and, more particularly, to a hydraulic fracturing plan executable by a hydraulic fracturing system to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and gas wells.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is a diagrammatic illustration of a hydraulic fracturing system operably to execute a hydraulic fracturing plan to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and gas wells, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 1B is a flow diagram illustrating a method for hydraulically fracturing a plurality of wells by executing a hydraulic fracturing plan using the hydraulic fracturing system of FIG. 1A, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of a first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which first step is or includes equalizing a lubricator of a frac leg associated with a first well, and opening the first well, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 2G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the various sub-steps, illustrated schematically in FIGS. 2A and 2G, of the first step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a second step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which second step is or includes perforating a stage of the first well using a wireline perforating system, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 5A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the second step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

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FIG. 5B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the second step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 5C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the second step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which third step is or includes closing the first well using a valve apparatus, and draining a lubricator, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7H schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 7I schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 8 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which fourth step is or includes isolating a stage of a second well in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 9A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 9B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 9C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 9D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

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FIG. 9E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 9F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 9G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 10 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a fifth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which fifth step is or includes detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of a third well has ended, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 11 schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the fifth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a sixth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which sixth step is or includes determining whether to permit a regular swap or a continuous pumping swap (or "CP swap"), according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 13 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a seventh step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which seventh step is or includes the regular swap from hydraulically fracturing the third well to hydraulically fracturing the second well, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 14A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the seventh step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 14B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the seventh step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 15 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of an eighth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which eighth step is or includes the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing the third well to hydraulically fracturing the second well, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 16A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the eighth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 16B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the eighth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 16C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the eighth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 16D is a chart illustrating execution of one or more of the various sub-steps, schematically illustrated in FIGS. 16A through 16C, of the eighth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 16E is another chart illustrating execution of one or more of the various sub-steps, schematically illustrated in FIGS. 16A through 16C, of the eighth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 17 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, which ninth step is or includes latching, filling, and pressure testing a frac leg associated with a fourth well in preparation for perfo-

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rating a stage of the fourth well using the wireline perforating system, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 18A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 18B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 18C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 18D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 18E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 18F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 18G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in FIG. 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 19A is a flow diagram illustrating a portion of another method for fracturing wells using the fracturing system of FIG. 1A, which another method includes swapping from simultaneously fracturing first and second wells to simultaneously fracturing third and fourth wells, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 19B is a flow diagram illustrating another portion of the another method of FIG. 20A, according to one or more embodiments.

FIG. 20 is a diagrammatic illustration of a computing node for implementing one or more embodiments of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIG. 1A, in an embodiment, a hydraulic fracturing system 100 for executing a hydraulic fracturing plan to hydraulically fracture wells 105A through 105C+n is illustrated, which hydraulic fracturing system 100 includes: a blender 110 adapted to mix fluid from a fluid source 115 with sand from a sand source 120 to produce hydraulic fracturing fluid; a suction manifold 125 adapted to receive the hydraulic fracturing fluid from the blender 110; a discharge manifold 130; a plurality of swap stations 135, each adapted to communicate the hydraulic fracturing fluid from the suction manifold 125 to a corresponding pump truck 140, and, after pressurization by the corresponding pump truck 140, to communicate the pressurized hydraulic fracturing fluid from the corresponding pump truck 140 to the discharge manifold 130; and a zipper manifold 145 adapted to communicate the pressurized hydraulic fracturing fluid from the discharge manifold 130 to a plurality of hydraulic fracturing legs (or “frac legs”) 150A through 150C+n, each of which is adapted to communicate the pressurized hydraulic fracturing fluid from the zipper manifold 145 to a corresponding one of the wells 105A through 105C+n. In one or more embodiments, each of the swap stations 135 is or includes one or more components shown and described in

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U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/436,189, filed Jun. 10, 2019, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0386359, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

A grease system 155 is adapted to communicate lubricating grease to various components of the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, including, for example, pump-down valves 160a-b, master valves 165a-b, and zipper valves 170a-b associated with each of the frac legs 150A through 150C+n (which components are shown in FIGS. 2A-G, 5A-C, 7A-I, 9A-G, 11, 14A-B, 16A-C, and 18A-G). In one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/248,648, filed Jan. 15, 2019, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,724,682, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/938,341, filed Jul. 24, 2020 now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0355322, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in the '749 Application, filed Apr. 22, 2020, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0248529, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in the '854 Application, filed May 13, 2021, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

A controller 156 is adapted to control the grease system 155, the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, or both. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 is or includes a non-transitory computer readable medium and one or more processors adapted to execute instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 is located on-site at the well site. Alternatively, the controller 156 may be located remotely from the well site. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 includes a plurality of controllers. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 includes a plurality of controllers, with one or more controllers located on-site at the well site and/or one or more other controllers located remotely from the well site.

Referring to FIG. 1B, in an embodiment, a method 175 for hydraulically fracturing the wells 105A through 105C+n by executing a hydraulic fracturing plan using the hydraulic fracturing system 100 of FIG. 1A is illustrated. The method 175 generally includes: at step(s) 176a, perforating a stage of each well using, for example, a wireline perforating system 177; at step(s) 176b, isolating the perforated stage of each well using an object dropped, for example, from a launcher 178 of the wireline perforating system 177; and, at step(s) 176c, hydraulically fracturing the isolated/perforated stage of each well. More particularly, as will be described in further detail below, the method 175 includes: at a step 225, equalizing a lubricator 220 of the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A, and opening the well 105A; at a step 230, perforating a stage of the well 105A using the wireline perforating system 177; at a step 235, closing the well 105A using the valve apparatus 210 and draining the lubricator 220; at a step 238a, queuing the well 105A (as indicated at queue position n₂) in a frac queue 239 in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation; at a step 238b, dequeuing the

well 105B (as indicated at queue position n_1+1) from the frac queue 239 in preparation for the hydraulic fracturing operation; at a step 240, isolating a stage of the well 105B in preparation for the hydraulic fracturing operation; at a step 245, detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of the well 105D has ended; at a step 250, determining whether to permit a regular swap or a CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at a step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B; at a step 255, executing the regular swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B, or, at a step 260, executing the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B; at the step 262, hydraulically fracturing the well 105B; optionally, at a step 263a, queuing the well 105D (as indicated at queue position n_1) in a wireline queue 264 in preparation for perforating a next stage of the well 105D; optionally, at a step 238b, dequeuing the well 105E (as indicated at queue position 1) from the wireline queue 264 in preparation for perforating a next stage of the well 105E; and, at a step 265, latching, filling, and pressure testing the frac leg 150E associated with the well 105E.

In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 is adapted to control the grease system 155, the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, or both, in order to execute the method 175 described herein. In one or more embodiments, the frac queue 239 and the wireline queue 264 are stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium that includes or is part of, for example, the controller 156. In one or more embodiments, the frac queue 239 is or includes a list of data items, commands, etc., stored on the computer readable medium so as to be retrievable by one or more processors in a definite order (but not necessarily in the order stored), and the frac queue 239 is associated with the wells 105A through 105C+n, as shown in FIG. 1B. In addition, or instead, the frac queue 239 can be at least partially populated by an external source, such as, for example, the frac operator. Likewise, in one or more embodiments, the wireline queue 264 is or includes a list of data items, commands, etc., stored on the computer readable medium so as to be retrievable by one or more processors in a definite order (but not necessarily in the order stored), and the wireline queue 264 is associated with the wells 105A through 105C+n, as shown in FIG. 1B. In addition, or instead, the wireline queue 264 can be at least partially populated by an external source, such as, for example, the wireline operator.

Referring to FIGS. 2A through 2G, in an embodiment, the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A is illustrated, which frac leg 150A includes: a wellhead including the master valves 165a-b (such as, for example, gate valves) operably coupled to, and adapted to be in fluid communication with, the well 105A, each of the master valves 165a-b including associated grease ports (or "GPs") 185a-b; the pump-down valves 160a-b (such as, for example, gate valves) operably coupled to, and adapted to communicate fluid between, a pump-down truck 190 and the well 105A, via the master valves 165a-b, each of the pump-down valves 160a-b including an associated GP 195; and the zipper valves 170a-b (such as, for example, gate valves) operably coupled to, and adapted to communicate fluid between, the zipper manifold 145 and the well 105A, via the master valves 165a-b, each of the zipper valves 170a-b including associated GPs 200a-b. In one or more embodiments, one or both of the zipper valves 170a-b of each of the frac legs 150A through 150C+n include(s), or is/are part of, the zipper

manifold 145. In one or more embodiments, as in FIGS. 2A through 2G, the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A also includes a flow block 205 to which the pump-down valves 160a-b and the zipper valves 170a-b are operably coupled.

The frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A further includes a valve apparatus 210 via which both the wireline perforating system 177 and the object launched from, for example, the launcher 178, are permitted entry to the well 105A. The valve apparatus 210 includes: a containment area 215a (labeled "WELL") adapted to be in fluid communication with the well 105A via the master valves 165a-b; a containment area 215b (labeled "LUB") adapted to be in fluid communication with the lubricator 220 of the wireline perforating system 177; and a containment area 215c (labeled "LL") adapted to be in fluid communication with the containment area 215a via a flow control device 221a (e.g., a flapper-type flow control device), and adapted to be in fluid communication with the containment area 215b via a flow control device 221b (e.g., a flapper-type flow control device).

An equalization ("EQ") valve 222a is connected between the containment areas 215a and 215c, which EQ valve 222a is openable to permit pressure equalization between the containment areas 215a and 215c when the flow control device 221a is closed. Likewise, an equalization valve 222b is connected between the containment areas 215b and 215c, which EQ valve 222b is openable to permit pressure equalization between the containment areas 215b and 215c when the flow control device 221b is closed. Additionally, an EQ valve 222c is connected between the lubricator 220 and atmosphere (labeled "ATM"), which EQ valve 222c permits pressure equalization between the lubricator 220 and atmosphere. A drain 223 is connected between a latch 234 (via which the lubricator 220 is detachably couplable to the valve apparatus 210) and a pump station 224a, via which drain 223 fluid is communicable to and/or from the lubricator 220, using, for example, an auto-fill/auto-drain pump of the pump station 224a, when the lubricator 220 is connected to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234. Finally, when the lubricator 220 is connected to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234, fluid can also be communicated to the lubricator 220 (via, for example, the containment area 215c and the EQ valve 222b) using one or more boost pump(s) 224b in order to increase a fluid pressure in the lubricator 220, aiding in pressure equalization between the lubricator 220 and the associated wellhead. For example, the boost pump(s) 224b may include: a first boost pump capable of pumping at relatively higher volumes and relatively lower pressures; and a second boost pump capable of pumping at relatively lower volumes and relatively higher pressures. The first and second boost pumps are used in combination to achieve combined pumping at relatively higher volumes and relatively higher pressures. In addition, or instead, a third boost pump capable of pumping at relatively higher volumes and relatively higher pressures may be used. Moreover, although shown as being connected to, and in fluid communication with, the containment area 215c, one or more of the boost pump(s) 224b may instead be, include, or be part of the pump station 224a.

In one or more embodiments, the valve apparatus 210 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/487,785, filed Apr. 14, 2017, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,662,740, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the valve apparatus 210 is or includes one or more compo-

nents shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/721,203, filed Dec. 19, 2019, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0123876, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

In one or more embodiments, the launcher **178** is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/248,633, filed Jan. 15, 2019, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,584,552, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the launcher **178** is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/801,911, filed Feb. 26, 2020, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0190933, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the launcher **178** is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/803,156, filed Feb. 27, 2020, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0190934, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

In one or more embodiments, the frac legs **150B** through **150C+n** associated with each of the wells **105B** through **105C+n**, respectively, are substantially identical to the frac leg **150A** associated with the well **105A**; therefore, the frac legs **150B** through **150C+n** associated with each of the wells **105B** through **105C+n** will not be described in further detail. Accordingly, each of the frac legs **150B** through **150C+n** associated with the wells **105B** through **105C+n** includes features/components substantially identical to corresponding features/components of the frac leg **150A** associated with the well **105A**, which substantially identical features/components are given the same reference numerals and will also not be described in further detail.

Referring to FIG. 3, with continuing reference to FIGS. 2A through 2G, in an embodiment, various sub-steps **226a-h** of the step **225** of the method **175** illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step **225** is or includes equalizing the lubricator **220** of the frac leg **150A** associated with the well **105A**, and opening the well **105A**. In one or more embodiments, the lubricator **220** is or includes one or more components shown and described in the '749 Application. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the lubricator **220** is or includes one or more components shown and described in the '854 Application.

At the sub-step **226a**, the boost pump(s) **224b** is/are turned on to increase a fluid pressure in the lubricator **220** of the frac leg **150A**, thereby aiding in pressure equalization between said lubricator **220** and the well **105A**, as shown in FIGS. 2A and 3 (indicated by arrow **232a** in FIG. 2A). As shown in FIG. 1B, the step **265** of latching, filling, and pressure testing the frac leg **150A** associated with the well **105A** is executed on the frac leg **150A** just prior to the execution of the sub-step **226a** on the frac leg **150A**. The step **265** will be described in further detail below as executed on the frac leg **150E**; however, the description below also applies to the execution of the step **265** on the frac leg **150A**. As a result, in one or more embodiments, just prior to execution of the sub-step **226a** on the frac leg **150A**: the EQ valve **222c** is closed; the drain **223** is closed; the lubricator **220** extends within, and is latched to, the latch **234**; the flow control device **221b** is closed; the EQ valve **222b** is open; the flow control device **221a** is closed; the EQ valve **222a** is closed; the pump-down valves **160a-b** closed, and grease from the grease system **155** is withheld from the correspond-

ing GPs **195**; the zipper valves **170a-b** are closed, and grease from the grease system **155** is withheld from the corresponding GPs **200a-b**; and the master valves **165a-b** are open, and grease from the grease system **155** is communicated to the corresponding GPs **185a-b**. The communication of grease from the grease system **155** to the corresponding GPs **185a-b** is not indicated by arrows in FIG. 2A but is instead indicated by a lack of shading of the GPs **185a-b** as shown in FIG. 2A; the same lack of shading indication applies to the GPs **185a-b** as shown in FIGS. 2B-G, 5A-C, 7A-I, 9A-G, 11, 14A-B, 16A-C, and 18A-G.

At the sub-step **226b**, respective fluid pressures within the containment areas **215a** and **215c** are compared to determine whether the fluid pressure in the lubricator **220** of the frac leg **150A** has been equalized to within a threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well **105A**. If it is determined that the fluid pressure in the lubricator **220** of the frac leg **150A** has not been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well **105A**, the EQ valve **222a** is opened at the sub-step **226c** to further encourage such pressure equalization between said lubricator **220** and the well **105A**, as shown in FIGS. 2B and 3. Alternatively, the order in which the sub-steps **226a** and **226c** are executed may be reversed, or one of the sub-steps **226a** and **226c** may be omitted altogether.

At the sub-step **226d**, once it is determined that the fluid pressure in the lubricator **220** of the frac leg **150A** has been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well **105A**, the flow control device **221a** is opened, as shown in FIGS. 2C and 3. At the sub-step **226e**, the EQ valve **222a** is closed, as shown in FIGS. 2D and 3. However, in those embodiments in which the sub-step **226c** of opening the EQ valve **222a** is omitted, the sub-step **226e** of closing the EQ valve **222a** is also omitted. Additionally, the sub-step **226e** may be executed to close the EQ valve **222a** at any time before, during, or after, execution of the sub-steps **226d**, **226f**, or **226g**. At the sub-step **226f**, the flow control device **221b** is opened, as shown in FIGS. 2E and 3. At the sub-step **226g**, the boost pump(s) **224b** is/are turned off, as shown in FIGS. 2F and 3. At the sub-step **226h**, the EQ valve **222b** is closed, as shown in FIGS. 2G and 3. Once the sub-steps **226a-h** are executed, the well **105A** is ready for execution of the step **230**, namely perforating a stage of the well **105A** using the wireline perforating system **177**, as will be described in detail below in connection with FIGS. 4 and 5A through 5C.

Referring to FIGS. 4 and 5A through 5C, in an embodiment, various sub-steps **231a-h** of the step **230** of the method **175** illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step **230** is or includes perforating a stage of the well **105A** using the wireline perforating system **177**. In one or more embodiments, the wireline perforating system **177** is or includes the pump-down truck **190**, a wireline truck **233**, the lubricator **220**, the launcher **178**, the latch **234** (via which the lubricator **220** is detachably couplable to the valve apparatus **210**), or any combination thereof. In addition, or instead, the wireline perforating system **177** may be or include one or more components shown and described in the '749 Application. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the wireline perforating system **177** may be or include one or more components shown and described in the '854 Application.

At the sub-step **231a**, a plug and perforating gun(s) are deployed from the lubricator **220**, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5A (indicated by arrow **232b** in FIG. 5A). At the sub-step **231b**, the pump-down valves **160a-b** are opened, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5B. At the sub-step **231c**, grease from the

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grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 195 of the pump-down valves 160a-b, respectively, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5B (indicated by arrows 232c in FIG. 5B). At the sub-step 231d, the plug and perforating gun(s) are pumped down into the well 105A using the pump-down truck 190, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5B (indicated by arrows 232d and 232e in FIG. 5B). At the sub-step 231e, the pump-down valves 160a-b are closed, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 195, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5C. Additionally, the sub-step 231e may be executed to close the pump-down valves 160a-b at any time before, during, or after, execution of the sub-steps 231f, 231g, or 231h. At the sub-step 231f, the plug is set in the well 105A, as shown in FIG. 4. At the sub-step 231g, the perforating gun(s) are detonated in the well 105A, as shown in FIG. 4. Finally, at the sub-step 231h, the spent perforating gun(s) are retrieved from the well 105A, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5C (indicated by arrows 232f and 232g in FIG. 5C). Once the sub-steps 231a-h are executed, the well 105A is ready for execution of the step 235, namely closing the well 105A using the valve apparatus 210 and draining the lubricator 220, as will be described in detail below in connection with FIGS. 6 and 7A through 7I.

Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7A through 7I, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 236a-n of the step 235 of the method 175 illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step 235 is or includes closing the well 105A using the valve apparatus 210 and draining the lubricator 220. At the sub-step 236a, bump up of the retrieved spent perforating gun(s) within the lubricator 220 is determined and/or confirmed. The sub-step 236a can be achieved in several ways, including, but not limited to: prompting the wireline operation for bump up; checking with the wireline operator to determine whether bump up has occurred; detecting bump up using a switch (e.g., a proximity switch) and/or another sensor (e.g., an accelerometer, a wireline speed sensor, a wireline tension sensor, a wireline length sensor, a wireline direction sensor, the like, or any combination thereof) associated with the lubricator 220; receiving verbal confirmation that bump up has occurred; or any combination thereof.

At the sub-step 236b, once the bump up of the retrieved spent perforating gun(s) within the lubricator 220 is determined and/or confirmed, the flow control device 221b is closed, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7A. At the sub-step 236c, the flow control device 221a is closed, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7B. At the sub-step 236d, the EQ valve 222c is opened, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7C, to bleed down a fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 (indicated by arrow 232g in FIG. 7C). At the sub-step 236e, the EQ valve 222b is opened, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7D. At the sub-step 236f, the lubricator 220 is checked to determine whether the fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 has dropped (or "bled down") to below a threshold value (e.g., a bleed PSI limit), as shown in FIG. 6. At the sub-step 236g, once it has been determined that the fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 has dropped to below the threshold value, the EQ valve 222b is closed, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7E.

At the sub-step 236h, the drain 223 is opened, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7F. At the sub-step 236i, the auto-drain pump of the pump station 224a is turned on to drain fluid from the lubricator 220 via the drain 223, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7F (indicated by arrow 232h in FIG. 7F). At the sub-step 236j, the auto-drain pump is allowed to finish auto-draining the lubricator 220 before the drain 223 is closed, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7G. At the sub-step 236k, the latch 234 is unlatched, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7G. At the sub-step 236l, the lubricator 220 is removed, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7H

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(indicated by arrow 232i in FIG. 7H). At the sub-step 236m, the EQ valve 222c is closed, as shown in FIG. 7I. Finally, at the sub-step 236n, an object drop (e.g., from the launcher 178) and/or a pressure test is/are enabled, as shown in FIG. 6. More particularly, once the sub-steps 236a-n are executed, the well 105A is ready for execution of the step 240, namely isolating a stage of the well 105A in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation. The step 240 will be described in further detail below (in connection with FIGS. 8 and 9A through 9G) as executed on the frac leg 150B to isolate a stage of the well 105B; however, the description below also applies to the execution of the step 240 on the frac leg 150A to isolate a stage of the well 105A.

Referring to FIGS. 8 and 9A through 9G, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 241a-o of the step 240 of the method 175 illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step 240 is or includes isolating a stage of the well 105B in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation. In one or more embodiments, the step 240 that is or includes isolating the stage of the well 105B includes or is part of a hydraulic fracturing operation. At the sub-step 241a, the EQ valve 222b is opened to facilitate pressure equalization between the containment areas 215b and 215c, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9A. At the sub-step 241b, an object is dropped from the launcher 178, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9A. At the sub-step 241c, respective fluid pressures within the containment areas 215b and 215c are checked to determine whether the containment areas 215b and 215c have been pressure equalized to within a threshold amount, as shown in FIG. 8. At the sub-step 241d, once it is determined that the containment areas 215b and 215c have been pressure equalized to within the threshold amount, the flow control device 221b is opened, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9B. At the sub-step 241e, the object passes into the containment area 215c, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9C. At the sub-step 241f, the flow control device 221b is closed, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9C. At the sub-step 241g, the EQ valve 222b is closed, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9D.

At the sub-step 241h, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned on to increase a fluid pressure in the containment area 215c, thereby aiding in pressure equalization between the containment areas 215a and 215c, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9D (indicated by arrow 232j in FIG. 9D). At the sub-step 241i, respective fluid pressures within the containment areas 215a and 215c are compared to determine whether the fluid pressure in the containment area 215c has been equalized to within a threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105B. If it is determined that the fluid pressure in the containment area 215c has not been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105B, the EQ valve 222a is opened at the sub-step 241j to further encourage such pressure equalization between said containment area 215c and the well 105B, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9E. Alternatively, the order in which the sub-steps 241h and 241j are executed may be reversed, or one of the sub-steps 241h and 241j may be omitted altogether.

At the sub-step 241k, once it is determined that the fluid pressure in the containment area 215c has been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105B, the flow control device 221a is opened, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9F. At the sub-step 241l, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned off, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9F. At the sub-step 241m, the EQ valve 222a is closed, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9F. However, in those embodiments in which the sub-step 241j of opening the EQ valve 222a is omitted, the sub-step 241m of closing the EQ valve 222a is also omitted. Additionally, the sub-step 241m may be executed to

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close the EQ valve 222a at any time before, during, or after, execution of the sub-steps 241k or 241l. At the sub-step 241n, the object is permitted passage to the well 105B, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9G. Finally, at the sub-step 241o, the flow control device 221a is closed, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9G. Once the sub-steps 241a-o are executed, the well 105B is ready for execution of the step 245, namely detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of the well 105D has ended, as will be described in detail below in connection with FIGS. 10 and 11.

Referring to FIGS. 10 and 11, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 246a-c of the step 245 of the method 175 illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step 245 is or includes detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of the well 105D has ended. At the sub-step 246a, the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) is monitored for an external signal indicating the fracturing stage has ended, as shown in FIG. 10. At the sub-step 246b, the n_1 well's frac data is monitored to determine whether the fracturing stage has ended, as shown in FIG. 10. Finally, at the sub-step 246c, the zipper valves 170a-b associated with the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B) are dequeued and compared against the frac order (if available). During execution of the sub-steps 246a-c: grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b of the zipper valves 170a-b, respectively, as shown in FIG. 11 (indicated by arrows 232k in FIG. 5B); and hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the well 105D, as shown in FIG. 11 (indicated by arrows 232l and 232m in FIG. 11).

Referring to FIG. 12, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 251a-c of the step 250 of the method 175 illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step 250 is or includes determining whether to permit a regular swap or a CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at a step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B, by, for example: checking an idle rate of the hydraulic fracturing system 100 at the sub-step 251a; and detecting or otherwise determining that an idle rate of the hydraulic fracturing system 100 is below an upper threshold and above a lower threshold at the sub-step 251b, or, at the sub-step 251c, detecting or otherwise determining that the idle rate of the hydraulic fracturing system 100 is below the lower threshold. More particularly, as shown in FIG. 12: at the sub-step 251a, a frac rate of the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) is checked; and, at the sub-step 251b, if the frac rate of the n_1 well is below the upper threshold rate (e.g., 10 bbl) and above the lower threshold rate (e.g., 0 bbl) for a threshold amount of time (e.g., 10 s), a CP swap from hydraulically fracturing the n_1 well to hydraulically fracturing the n_1+1 well is permitted at step 260, but, at the sub-step 251c, if the frac rate of the n_1 well is below the lower threshold rate for a threshold amount of time, only a regular swap from hydraulically fracturing the n_1 well to hydraulically fracturing the n_1+1 well is permitted at step 255.

Referring to FIGS. 13 and 14A through 14B, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 256a-c of the step 255 of the method 175 illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step 255 is or includes executing the regular swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B). At the sub-step 256a, the n_1 well's (e.g., well 105D) zipper valves 170a-b are closed, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 200a-b, as shown in FIGS. 13 and 14A. At the sub-step 256b, a signal to advance is received, as shown in FIG. 13. For example, a user input such as a screen click may be received at the sub-step 256b. In addition, or

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instead, an external signal, such as an external signal from the frac operator, may be received at the sub-step 256b. In addition, or instead, a signal to advance may be generated by detecting or otherwise determining that pressure equalization has been achieved to within a threshold amount between the hydraulic fracturing pressure in the zipper manifold 145 and the fluid pressure in the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B) for a threshold amount of time. At the sub-step 256c, the n_1+1 well's zipper valves 170a-b are opened, as shown in FIGS. 13 and 14B, so that hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the n_1+1 well (indicated by arrows 232n and 232o in FIGS. 14B), and grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b (indicated by arrow 232p in FIG. 14B).

Referring to FIGS. 15 and 16A through 16E, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 261a-c of the step 260 of the method 175 illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step 260 is or includes executing the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B). At the sub-step 261a, the n_1+1 well's (e.g., well 105B) zipper valves 170a-b are opened, as shown in FIGS. 15 and 16A, hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the n_1+1 well (indicated by arrows 232n and 232o in FIG. 16A), and grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b (indicated by arrow 232p in FIG. 16A). At the sub-step 261b, both the n_1+1 well's (e.g., well 105B) zipper valves 170a-b and the n_1 well's (e.g., well D) zipper valves 170a-b are allowed to fully open, as shown in FIGS. 15, 16A and 16B, so that: hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the n_1 well (indicated by arrows 232l and 232m in FIG. 16B) and the n_1+1 well (indicated by arrows 232n and 232o in FIG. 16A); and grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b (indicated by arrows 232p and 232k in FIGS. 16A and 16B, respectively). Finally, at the sub-step 261c, the n_1 well's (e.g., well 105D) zipper valves 170a-b are closed, as shown in FIGS. 15 and 16C, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 200a-b.

As shown in FIGS. 16D and 16E, executing the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B) transitions the zipper valves from one well to the other, opening the second well and subsequently shutting-in the first well, all while pumping. The transition is instantaneous and the total time between stages measured at treatment pressure is less than 20 seconds (as fast as 19 seconds in some instances).

Referring to FIGS. 17 and 18A through 18G, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 266a-s of the step 265 of the method 175 illustrated in FIG. 1B are shown in detail, which step 265 is or includes latching, filling, and pressure testing the frac leg 150E associated with the well 105E in preparation for perforating a stage of the well 105E using the wireline perforating system 177 (in a manner similar to that described above in connection with the well 105A and shown in FIGS. 5A through 5C). At the sub-step 266a, the lubricator 220 is stabbed into the latch 234, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18A (indicated by arrow 232q in FIG. 18A). At the sub-step 266b, the EQ valve 222c is closed, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18B. At the sub-step 266c, the latch close relay is energized to close the latch 234, thereby connecting the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18C. At the sub-step 266d, a latch close

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proximity switch is checked to determine whether the latch 234 has successfully latched the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210. At the sub-step 266e, once it is determined that the latch 234 has successfully latched the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210, the latch close relay is de-energized, as shown in FIG. 17. At the sub-step 266f, a test pressure relay is energized, as shown in FIG. 17. At the sub-step 266g, a determination is made as to whether the connection of the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234 is or is not capable of holding pressure, as shown in FIG. 17. At the sub-step 266h, once the determination is made that the connection of the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234 is capable of holding pressure, the test pressure relay is de-energized, as shown in FIG. 17.

At the sub-step 266i, the drain 223 is opened, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18D. At the sub-step 266j, the EQ valve 222c is opened, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18E. At the sub-step 266k, the auto-fill pump of the pump station 224a is turned on to fill the lubricator 220 via the open drain 223, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18E (indicated by arrow 232r in FIG. 18E). At the sub-step 266l, the auto-fill pump is allowed to finish auto-filling the lubricator 220, as shown in FIG. 17. At the sub-step 266m, the drain 223 is closed, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18F. At the sub-step 266n, the EQ valve 222c is closed, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18F. At the sub-step 266o, the EQ valve 222b is opened, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18F. At the sub-step 266p, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned on to increase the fluid pressure within the lubricator 220, as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18F (indicated by arrow 232s in FIG. 18F). At the sub-step 266q, a determination is made as to whether the pressure in the lubricator 220 comes to within the pressure in the well 105E by a threshold amount (e.g., 500 PSI), as shown in FIG. 17. Once the determination is made that the pressure in the lubricator 220 comes to within the pressure in the well 105E by the threshold amount, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned off at the sub-step 266r, and the EQ valve 222b is closed at the sub-step 266s in preparation for the next wireline swap (e.g., to the well 105E), as shown in FIGS. 17 and 18G.

Referring to FIGS. 19A and 19B, in an embodiment, a method 270 for fracturing the wells 105A through 105C+n using the hydraulic fracturing system 100 of FIG. 1A is illustrated, which method 270 includes swapping from simultaneously fracturing the wells n_1 and n_3 (e.g., wells 105D and 105X) to simultaneously fracturing the wells n_1+1 and n_3+1 (e.g., wells 105B and 105V). More particularly, the method 270 includes steps substantially identical to corresponding steps of the method 175 described above, which steps are given the same reference numerals. In addition, the method 270 includes additional steps executable to simultaneously fracture the n_1 and n_3 wells (e.g., wells 105D and 105X), and to swap from simultaneously fracturing the n_1 and n_3 wells to simultaneously fracturing the n_1+1 and n_3+1 wells (e.g., wells 105B and 105V), which additional steps are given the same reference numerals, except that the suffix “'” is added. Specifically, in some instances the suffix “'” signifies that the referenced step of the method 270 is substantially identical to the corresponding step of the method 175, except that the referenced step is instead performed on a different one of the wells than that on which the corresponding step of the method 175 is performed (i.e., the steps 225', 230', 235', 238a', 239', 238b', 263a', 264', 263b', 265', and 268' fall into this category), while, in other instances, the suffix “'” signifies that the referenced step of the method 270 is substantially similar to the corresponding step of the method 175, except that the referenced step is

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simultaneously performed on another one of the wells other than that on which the corresponding step of the method 175 is performed (i.e., the steps 240', 245', 250', 255', 260', and 262' fall into this category). In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 is adapted to control the grease system 155, the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, or both, in order to execute the method 270 described herein.

Referring to FIG. 20, with continuing reference to FIGS. 1A through 19B, an illustrative node 1000 for implementing one or more of the embodiments of one or more of the controller(s) (e.g., the controller 156), element(s), apparatus, system(s) (e.g., the hydraulic fracturing system 100), method(s) (e.g., the method 175, the method 270, or both), step(s), and/or sub-step(s), or any combination thereof, described above and/or illustrated in FIGS. 1A through 19B is depicted. The node 1000 includes a microprocessor 1000a, an input device 1000b, a storage device 1000c, a video controller 1000d, a system memory 1000e, a display 1000f, and a communication device 1000g all interconnected by one or more buses 1000h. In one or more embodiments, the storage device 1000c may include a hard drive, CD-ROM, optical drive, any other form of storage device and/or any combination thereof. In one or more embodiments, the storage device 1000c may include, and/or be capable of receiving, a CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, or any other form of non-transitory computer-readable medium that may contain executable instructions. In one or more embodiments, the communication device 1000g may include a modem, network card, or any other device to enable the node 1000 to communicate with other node(s). In one or more embodiments, the node and the other node(s) represent a plurality of interconnected (whether by intranet or Internet) computer systems, including without limitation, personal computers, mainframes, PDAs, smartphones and cell phones.

In one or more embodiments, one or more of the embodiments described above and/or illustrated in FIGS. 1A through 19B include at least the node 1000 and/or components thereof, and/or one or more nodes that are substantially similar to the node 1000 and/or components thereof. In one or more embodiments, one or more of the above-described components of the node 1000 and/or the embodiments described above and/or illustrated in FIGS. 1A through 19B include respective pluralities of same components.

In one or more embodiments, one or more of the embodiments described above and/or illustrated in FIGS. 1A through 19B include a computer program that includes a plurality of instructions, data, and/or any combination thereof; an application written in, for example, Arena, HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), JavaScript, Extensible Markup Language (XML), asynchronous JavaScript and XML (Ajax), and/or any combination thereof; a web-based application written in, for example, Java or Adobe Flex, which in one or more embodiments pulls real-time information from one or more servers, automatically refreshing with latest information at a predetermined time increment; or any combination thereof.

In one or more embodiments, a computer system typically includes at least hardware capable of executing machine readable instructions, as well as the software for executing acts (typically machine-readable instructions) that produce a desired result. In one or more embodiments, a computer system may include hybrids of hardware and software, as well as computer sub-systems.

In one or more embodiments, hardware generally includes at least processor-capable platforms, such as client-machines (also known as personal computers or servers), and

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hand-held processing devices (such as smart phones, tablet computers, or personal computing devices (PCDs), for example). In one or more embodiments, hardware may include any physical device that is capable of storing machine-readable instructions, such as memory or other data storage devices. In one or more embodiments, other forms of hardware include hardware sub-systems, including transfer devices such as modems, modem cards, ports, and port cards, for example.

In one or more embodiments, software includes any machine code stored in any memory medium, such as RAM or ROM, and machine code stored on other devices (such as floppy disks, flash memory, or a CD-ROM, for example). In one or more embodiments, software may include source or object code. In one or more embodiments, software encompasses any set of instructions capable of being executed on a node such as, for example, on a client machine or server.

In one or more embodiments, combinations of software and hardware could also be used for providing enhanced functionality and performance for certain embodiments of the present disclosure. In an embodiment, software functions may be directly manufactured into a silicon chip. Accordingly, it should be understood that combinations of hardware and software are also included within the definition of a computer system and are thus envisioned by the present disclosure as possible equivalent structures and equivalent methods.

In one or more embodiments, computer readable mediums include, for example, passive data storage, such as a random-access memory (RAM) as well as semi-permanent data storage such as a compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM). One or more embodiments of the present disclosure may be embodied in the RAM of a computer to transform a standard computer into a new specific computing machine. In one or more embodiments, data structures are defined organizations of data that may enable an embodiment of the present disclosure. In an embodiment, a data structure may provide an organization of data, or an organization of executable code.

In one or more embodiments, any networks and/or one or more portions thereof may be designed to work on any specific architecture. In an embodiment, one or more portions of any networks may be executed on a single computer, local area networks, client-server networks, wide area networks, internets, hand-held and other portable and wireless devices and networks.

In one or more embodiments, a database may be any standard or proprietary database software. In one or more embodiments, the database may have fields, records, data, and other database elements that may be associated through database specific software. In one or more embodiments, data may be mapped. In one or more embodiments, mapping is the process of associating one data entry with another data entry. In an embodiment, the data contained in the location of a character file can be mapped to a field in a second table. In one or more embodiments, the physical location of the database is not limiting, and the database may be distributed. In an embodiment, the database may exist remotely from the server, and run on a separate platform. In an embodiment, the database may be accessible across the Internet. In one or more embodiments, more than one database may be implemented.

In one or more embodiments, a plurality of instructions stored on a computer readable medium may be executed by one or more processors to cause the one or more processors to carry out or implement in whole or in part one or more of the embodiments of one or more of the controller(s) (e.g.,

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the controller 156), element(s), apparatus, system(s) (e.g., the hydraulic fracturing system 100), method(s) (e.g., the method 175, the method 270, or both), step(s), and/or sub-step(s), or any combination thereof, described above and/or illustrated in FIGS. 1A through 19B. In one or more embodiments, such a processor may include one or more of the microprocessor 1000a, any processor(s) that are part of the components of the hydraulic fracturing system 100, such as, for example, the controller 156, and/or any combination thereof, and such a computer readable medium may be distributed among one or more components of the system. In one or more embodiments, such a processor may execute the plurality of instructions in connection with a virtual computer system. In one or more embodiments, such a plurality of instructions may communicate directly with the one or more processors, and/or may interact with one or more operating systems, middleware, firmware, other applications, and/or any combination thereof, to cause the one or more processors to execute the instructions.

A first method has been disclosed. The first method generally includes: (a) permitting performance of a first hydraulic fracturing operation on a first well, which first hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the first well via a first valve associated with the first well, and measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well; (b) determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time; (c) during pumping of the fluid into the first well via the first valve, opening a second valve associated with a second well; (d) permitting performance of a second hydraulic fracturing operation on the second well, which second hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the second well via the second valve; and (e) during pumping of the fluid into the second well via the second valve, closing the first valve associated with the first well; wherein, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is continuously pumped to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is in fluid communication with a hydraulic manifold from which fluid is pumped to the first valve and/or the second valve; and, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is continuously pumped from the hydraulic manifold to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, the second valve is opened after step (b). In one or more embodiments, the first valve includes a grease port; and the method further includes withholding grease from the grease port after step (e). In one or more embodiments, the second valve includes a grease port; and the method further includes: during and/or after opening the second valve, communicating grease to the grease port of the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is a zipper valve. In one or more embodiments, step (d): further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well; and is, or is part of, a hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well; and the method further includes: determining that the hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well has ended; determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above the flow rate threshold; closing the second valve associated with the second well; withholding grease from a grease port of the second valve; receiving a signal to advance; opening a third valve associated with a third well; and during and/or after opening the third valve, communicating grease to a grease port of the third valve.

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A first apparatus has also been disclosed. The first apparatus generally includes: a non-transitory computer readable medium; and a plurality of instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium and executable by one or more processors, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are executed: (a) permitting performance of a first hydraulic fracturing operation on a first well, which first hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the first well via a first valve associated with the first well, and measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well; (b) determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time; (c) during pumping of the fluid into the first well via the first valve, opening a second valve associated with a second well; (d) permitting performance of a second hydraulic fracturing operation on the second well, which second hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the second well via the second valve; and (e) during pumping of the fluid into the second well via the second valve, closing the first valve associated with the first well; wherein, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is continuously pumped to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is in fluid communication with a hydraulic manifold from which fluid is pumped to the first valve and/or the second valve; wherein, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is continuously pumped from the hydraulic manifold to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, the second valve is opened after step (b). In one or more embodiments, the first valve includes a grease port; and, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed: withholding grease from the grease port after step (e). In one or more embodiments, the second valve includes a grease port; and, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed: during and/or after opening the second valve, communicating grease to the grease port of the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is a zipper valve. In one or more embodiments, step (d): further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well; and is, or is part of, a hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well; and, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are also executed: determining that the hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well has ended; determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above the flow rate threshold; closing the second valve associated with the second well; withholding grease from a grease port of the second valve; receiving a signal to advance; opening a third valve associated with a third well; and during and/or after opening the third valve, communicating grease to a grease port of the third valve.

A second method has also been disclosed. The second method generally includes: (a) queuing, using a controller, a first well in a first hydraulic fracturing queue, which first hydraulic fracturing queue is associated with a first plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the first well and a second well; (b) dequeuing, using the controller, the second well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; (c) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second well; (d) dequeuing, using the controller, the first well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; and (e) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second

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well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the first well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; and step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well. In one or more embodiments, step (e) further includes, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) before the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, the step (e) further includes, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above a flow rate threshold, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) after the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, the method further includes: (f) queuing, using the controller, a third well in a second hydraulic fracturing queue, which second hydraulic fracturing queue is associated with a second plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the third well and a fourth well; (g) dequeuing, using the controller, the fourth well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; (h) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well; (i) dequeuing, using the controller, the third well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; and (j) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the third well. In one or more embodiments, steps (c) and (h) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from a hydraulic manifold; and steps (e) and (j) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from the hydraulic manifold. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well; step (h) includes opening a fourth valve associated with the fourth well to permit pumping of fluid into the fourth well via the fourth valve; and step (j) includes: opening a third valve associated with the third well to permit pumping of fluid into the third well via the third valve; and closing the fourth valve associated with the fourth well.

A second apparatus has also been disclosed. The second apparatus generally includes: a non-transitory computer readable medium; and a plurality of instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium and executable by one or more processors, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are executed: (a) queuing a first well in a first hydraulic fracturing queue, which first hydraulic fracturing queue includes a first plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the first well and a second well; (b) dequeuing the second well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; (c) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second well; (d) dequeuing the first well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; and (e) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the first well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve

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associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; and step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well. In one or more embodiments, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) before the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above a flow rate threshold, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) after the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are also executed: (f) queuing a third well in a second hydraulic fracturing queue, which second hydraulic fracturing queue includes a second plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the third well and a fourth well; (g) dequeuing the fourth well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; (h) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well; (i) dequeuing the third well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; and (j) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the third well. In one or more embodiments, steps (c) and (h) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from a hydraulic manifold; and steps (e) and (j) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from the hydraulic manifold. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well; step (h) includes opening a fourth valve associated with the fourth well to permit pumping of fluid into the fourth well via the fourth valve; and step (j) includes: opening a third valve associated with the third well to permit pumping of fluid into the third well via the third valve; and closing the fourth valve associated with the fourth well.

It is understood that variations may be made in the foregoing without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

In several embodiments, the elements and teachings of the various embodiments may be combined in whole or in part in some (or all) of the embodiments. In addition, one or more of the elements and teachings of the various embodiments may be omitted, at least in part, and/or combined, at least in part, with one or more of the other elements and teachings of the various embodiments.

Any spatial references, such as, for example, "upper," "lower," "above," "below," "between," "bottom," "vertical," "horizontal," "angular," "upwards," "downwards," "side-to-side," "left-to-right," "right-to-left," "top-to-bottom," "bottom-to-top," "top," "bottom," "bottom-up," "top-down," etc., are for the purpose of illustration only and do not limit the specific orientation or location of the structure described above.

In several embodiments, while different steps, processes, and procedures are described as appearing as distinct acts,

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one or more of the steps, one or more of the processes, and/or one or more of the procedures may also be performed in different orders, simultaneously and/or sequentially. In several embodiments, the steps, processes, and/or procedures may be merged into one or more steps, processes and/or procedures.

In several embodiments, one or more of the operational steps in each embodiment may be omitted. Moreover, in some instances, some features of the present disclosure may be employed without a corresponding use of the other features. Moreover, one or more of the above-described embodiments and/or variations may be combined in whole or in part with any one or more of the other above-described embodiments and/or variations.

Although several embodiments have been described in detail above, the embodiments described are illustrative only and are not limiting, and those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many other modifications, changes and/or substitutions are possible in the embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of the present disclosure. Accordingly, all such modifications, changes, and/or substitutions are intended to be included within the scope of this disclosure as defined in the following claims. In the claims, any means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents, but also equivalent structures. Moreover, it is the express intention of the applicant not to invoke 35 U.S.C. § 112(f) for any limitations of any of the claims herein, except for those in which the claim expressly uses the word "means" together with an associated function.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions:
opening a second valve;
communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and
closing the first valve after opening the second valve.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

communicating fluid to a third well via the manifold and a third valve, the third valve being associated with both the manifold and the third well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions:

opening a fourth valve;
communicating fluid to a fourth well via the fourth valve; and
closing the third valve after opening the fourth valve.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:

the first valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve; and/or
the third valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more conditions include one or more flow rate conditions.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow

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rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
pumping the fluid into the manifold.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions comprises determining that a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or
the second valve is a second zipper valve.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the second valve is associated with both the manifold and the second well; and wherein communicating fluid to the second well via the second valve comprises communicating fluid to the second well via the manifold and the second valve.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.

14. An apparatus, comprising:
a non-transitory computer readable medium; and
a plurality of instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium and executable by one or more processors, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are executed:

communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and

in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions:

opening a second valve;

communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and

closing the first valve after opening the second valve.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are also executed:

communicating fluid to a third well via the manifold and a third valve, the third valve being associated with both the manifold and the third well; and

in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions:

opening a fourth valve;

communicating fluid to a fourth well via the fourth valve; and

closing the third valve after opening the fourth valve.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

the first valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve; and/or

the third valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the one or more conditions include one or more flow rate conditions.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more

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flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.

20. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed:

pumping the fluid into the manifold.

21. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed:

determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions comprises determining that a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

23. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.

24. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or

the second valve is a second zipper valve.

25. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second valve is associated with both the manifold and the second well; and

wherein communicating fluid to the second well via the second valve comprises communicating fluid to the second well via the manifold and the second valve.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.

27. A system, comprising:

a first valve via which fluid is communicated from a manifold to a first well;

a second valve via which fluid is adapted to be communicated to a second well; and

one or more controllers,

configured to:

open the second valve to thereby communicate fluid to the second well via the second valve; and

close the first valve after opening the second valve,

in response to:

determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions.

28. The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a third valve via which fluid is communicated from the manifold to a third well;

a fourth valve via which the fluid is adapted to be communicated to a fourth well; and

the one or more controllers,

configured to:

open the fourth valve to thereby communicate fluid to the fourth well via the fourth valve; and

close the third valve after opening the fourth valve,

in response to:

determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the one or more controllers are further configured to:

close the first valve after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve; and/or

close the third valve after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.

30. The system of claim 27, wherein the one or more conditions include one or more flow rate conditions.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.

33. The system of claim 27, further comprising the manifold. 5

34. The system of claim 27, further comprising one or more pumps;

wherein the one or more controllers are further configured to cause the one or more pumps to pump the fluid into the manifold. 10

35. The system of claim 27, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.

36. The system of claim 27, wherein:

the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or 15

the second valve is a second zipper valve.

37. The system of claim 27, wherein the second valve is associated with both the manifold and the second well; and wherein communicating fluid to the second well via the second valve comprises communicating fluid to the second well via the manifold and the second valve. 20

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.

* * * * *

AO 120 (Rev. 08/10)

TO: Mail Stop 8 Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	REPORT ON THE FILING OR DETERMINATION OF AN ACTION REGARDING A PATENT OR TRADEMARK
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In Compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 290 and/or 15 U.S.C. § 1116 you are hereby advised that a court action has been filed in the U.S. District Court _____ for the District of Colorado _____ on the following

☐ Trademarks or ☒ Patents. (☐ the patent action involves 35 U.S.C. § 292.);

DOCKET NO. 1:23-cv-01180-RMR	DATE FILED 5/10/2023	U.S. DISTRICT COURT for the District of Colorado
PLAINTIFF Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC		DEFENDANT Intelligent Wellhead Systems, Inc., Intelligent Wellhead Systems, Corp., and IWS USA Corp.
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1 11,401,779 B2	8/2/2022	Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC
2 11,560,770 B2	1/24/2023	Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC
3		
4		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following patent(s)/ trademark(s) have been included:

DATE INCLUDED	INCLUDED BY ☐ Amendment ☐ Answer ☐ Cross Bill ☐ Other Pleading	
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following decision has been rendered or judgement issued:

DECISION/JUDGEMENT

CLERK	(BY) DEPUTY CLERK	DATE
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Copy 1—Upon initiation of action, mail this copy to Director Copy 3—Upon termination of action, mail this copy to Director
 Copy 2—Upon filing document adding patent(s), mail this copy to Director Copy 4—Case file copy



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
17/878,493	01/24/2023	11560770	57959.12US02	6541

27683 7590 01/04/2023
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
IP Section
2323 Victory Avenue
Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75219

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience (OPSE), Stakeholder Support Division (SSD) at (571)-272-4200.

INVENTOR(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional inventors):

Jordan Kuehn, Forest Park, IL;
Austin Johnson, Edmond, OK;
Ronnie B. Beason, Lexington, OK;
Nicholas J. Cannon, Washington, OK;

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK;

The United States represents the largest, most dynamic marketplace in the world and is an unparalleled location for business investment, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. The USA offers tremendous resources and advantages for those who invest and manufacture goods here. Through SelectUSA, our nation works to encourage and facilitate business investment. To learn more about why the USA is the best country in the world to develop technology, manufacture products, and grow your business, visit SelectUSA.gov.

IR103 (Rev. 10/09)

Document Description: Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)

Issue Fee Transmittal Form

Application Number	Filing Date	First Named Inventor	Atty. Docket No.	Confirmation No.
17878493	01-Aug-2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02	6541

TITLE OF INVENTION :

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

Entity Status	Application Type	Art Unit	Class - Subclass	EXAMINER
Small	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)	3676	373000	DANIEL STEPHENSON
Issue Fee Due	Publication Due	Total Fee(s) Due	Date Due	Prev. Paid Fee
\$600	\$0	\$600	28-Feb-2023	\$0

1.Change of Correspondence Address and/or Indication Of Fee Address (37 CFR 1.33 & 1.363)

Current Correspondence Address:	Current Indicated Fee Address :
27683 HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP IP Section 2323 Victory Avenue Suite 700 Dallas TX 75219 UNITED STATES 214-651-5000 ipdocketing@haynesboone.com	
☐ Change of correspondence address requested, system generated AIA/122-EFS form attached	☐ Fee Address indication requested, system generated SB/47-EFS form attached

2.Entity Status**Change in Entity Status**

Applicant certifying micro entity status; system generated Micro Entity certification form attached. See 37 CFR 1.29.

Note: Absent a valid certification of micro entity status, issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment. If this box is checked, you will be prompted to choose a micro entity status on the gross income basis (37 CFR 1.29(a)) or the institution of higher education basis (37 CFR 1.29(d)), and make the applicable certification online.



Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

Note: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.



Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

Note: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.



Document Description: Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)

3.The Following Fee(s) Are Submitted:☒ Issue Fee☐ I authorize USPTO to apply my previously paid issue fee to the current fees due☐ Publication Fee☐ The Director is hereby authorized to apply my previously paid issue fee to the current fee due and to charge deficient fees to Deposit Account Number _____☐ Advance Order - # of copies _____

If **in addition to** the payment of the issue fee amount submitted with this form, there are any discrepancies in any amount(s) due, the Director is authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 081394.

☒ The **issue fee must be submitted** with this form. **If payment of the issue fee does not accompany this form, checking this box and providing a deposit account number will NOT be effective to satisfy full payment of the fee(s) due.**

4.Firm and/or Attorney Names To Be Printed**NOTE: If no name is listed, no name will be printed**

For printing on the patent front page, list to be displayed as entered

1. HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

2.

3.

5.Assignee Name(s) and Residence Data To Be Printed

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

Name	City	State	Country	Category
DOWNING WELLHEAD EQUIPMENT, LLC	OKLAHOMA CITY	OKLAHOMA	UNITED STATES	corporation

6.Signature

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who has filed and has been granted power of attorney in this application. I also certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal form is being transmitted to the USPTO via EFS-WEB on the date indicated below.

Signature	/Zachary A. Halbur/	Date	12-16-2022
Name	Zachary A. Halbur	Registration Number	68500

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		17878493		
Filing Date:		01-Aug-2022		
Title of Invention:		HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Jordan Kuehn		
Filer:		Zachary Arnold Halbur/Q Dismuke		
Attorney Docket Number:		57959.12US02		
Filed as Small Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
UTILITY APPL ISSUE FEE	2501	1	600	600
PUBL. FEE- EARLY, VOLUNTARY, OR NORMAL	1504	1	0	0
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				600

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	47224315
Application Number:	17878493
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6541
Title of Invention:	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Jordan Kuehn
Customer Number:	27683
Filer:	Zachary Arnold Halbur/Q Dismuke
Filer Authorized By:	Zachary Arnold Halbur
Attorney Docket Number:	57959.12US02
Receipt Date:	16-DEC-2022
Filing Date:	01-AUG-2022
Time Stamp:	15:12:44
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	DA
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 600
RAM confirmation Number	E2022BFF12432468
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:	

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	Web85b.pdf	62799	no	2
			2bda622402848ff96a1069f98be907d319b758c2		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	40767	no	2
			4191608a4ad9716a0ab026ad1653e0292903241a		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			103566		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
17/878,493	08/01/2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02	6541
27683 7590 12/12/2022 HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP IP Section 2323 Victory Avenue Suite 700 Dallas, TX 75219			EXAMINER STEPHENSON, DANIEL P	
			ART UNIT 3676	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 12/12/2022	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ipdocketing@haynesboone.com

Corrected Notice of Allowability	Application No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s) Kuehn et al.	
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676	AIA (FITF) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an internal review.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-38 . As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
Certified copies:
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____ 4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____	5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment 6. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 7. ☐ Other _____
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/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676	
--	--

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

CPC						
Symbol					Type	Version
E21B	/	34	/	02	F	2013-01-01
E21B	/	41	/	00	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	43	/	2607	I	2020-05-01
E21B	/	33	/	068	I	2013-01-01
F16N	/	11	/	00	I	2013-01-01
F16N	/	29	/	02	I	2013-01-01
F16K	/	3	/	36	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	43	/	11	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	17	/	006	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	43	/	26	I	2013-01-01
F16N	/	2210	/	00	A	2013-01-01

CPC Combination Sets				
Symbol	Type	Set	Ranking	Version

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 38	
/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) 07 December 2022		O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Part of Paper No.: 20221207

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION			
CLAIMED			
E21B		43	26
E21B		33	068
E21B		34	02
E21B		41	00
E21B		43	11
F16K		3	36
F16N		11	00
F16N		29	02
NON-CLAIMED			

US ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION	
CLASS	SUBCLASS

CROSS REFERENCES(S)						
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)					

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 38	
/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) 07 December 2022		O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47															
CLAIMS															
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	11	10	23	19	34	28	37	37						
2	2	14	11	24	20	35	29	38	38						
3	3	15	12	27	21	36	30								
4	4	16	13	28	22	12	31								
5	5	17	14	29	23	13	32								
6	6	18	15	30	24	9	33								
7	7	19	16	31	25	25	34								
8	8	20	17	32	26	26	35								
10	9	21	18	33	27	22	36								

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 38	
/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		07 December 2022 O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Part of Paper No.: 20221207



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

27683 7590 11/30/2022
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
IP Section
2323 Victory Avenue
Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75219

EXAMINER

STEPHENSON, DANIEL P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2022

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
17/878,493	08/01/2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02	6541

TITLE OF INVENTION: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$600	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600	02/28/2023

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Maintenance fees are due in utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due. More information is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentMaintenanceFees.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via EFS-Web.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

27683 7590 11/30/2022
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
IP Section
2323 Victory Avenue
Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75219

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via EFS-Web or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
17/878,493	08/01/2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02	6541

TITLE OF INVENTION: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$600	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600	02/28/2023

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
STEPHENSON, DANIEL P	3676	166-373000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/AIA/122 or PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/AIA/47 or PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ☐ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (if required) ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Method of Payment: (Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)

☐ Electronic Payment via EFS-Web ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
17/878,493	08/01/2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02	6541
27683 7590 11/30/2022 HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP IP Section 2323 Victory Avenue Suite 700 Dallas, TX 75219			EXAMINER STEPHENSON, DANIEL P	
			ART UNIT 3676	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 11/30/2022				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s) Kuehn et al.	
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676	AIA (FITF) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the TD filed 11/7/22.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30 . As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	6. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____.	7. ☐ Other _____.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	

/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676	
--	--

Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status

1. The present application, filed on or after March 16, 2013, is being examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art is Kajaria (US 20170275980).
3. Kajaria discloses a method opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve (opening valve 66 of second well 14); and opening a first valve (opening valve of first well 14) associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well.
4. The prior art of record fails to disclose, alone or in combination, the key features of "in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions: opening a second valve" in combination with the other limitations currently presented in the combination of claim 1.
5. The prior art of record fails to disclose, alone or in combination, the key features of "in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions: opening a second valve" in combination with the other limitations currently presented in the combination of claim 11.
6. The prior art of record fails to disclose, alone or in combination, the key features of "close the first valve after opening the second valve, in response to: determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions" in combination with the other limitations currently presented in the combination of claim 21.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL P STEPHENSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7035. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 10am-6pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Fuller can be reached on (571) 272-6300. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of published or unpublished applications may be obtained from Patent Center. Unpublished application information in Patent Center is available to registered users. To file and manage patent submissions in Patent Center, visit: <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. Visit <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center> for more information about Patent Center and <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx> for information about filing in DOCX format. For additional questions, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

CPC						
Symbol					Type	Version
E21B	/	34	/	02	F	2013-01-01
E21B	/	41	/	00	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	43	/	2607	I	2020-05-01
E21B	/	33	/	068	I	2013-01-01
F16N	/	11	/	00	I	2013-01-01
F16N	/	29	/	02	I	2013-01-01
F16K	/	3	/	36	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	43	/	11	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	17	/	006	I	2013-01-01
E21B	/	43	/	26	I	2013-01-01
F16N	/	2210	/	00	A	2013-01-01

CPC Combination Sets				
Symbol	Type	Set	Ranking	Version

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 30	
/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) 19 November 2022		O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Part of Paper No.: 20221119

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION			
CLAIMED			
E21B		43	26
E21B		33	068
E21B		34	02
E21B		41	00
E21B		43	11
F16K		3	36
F16N		11	00
F16N		29	02
NON-CLAIMED			

US ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION	
CLASS	SUBCLASS

CROSS REFERENCES(S)						
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)					

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 30	
/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		19 November 2022 O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Part of Paper No.: 20221119

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

☒ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47															
CLAIMS															
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original

NONE (Assistant Examiner) _____ (Date) _____		Total Claims Allowed: 30	
/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676 (Primary Examiner) _____ (Date) 19 November 2022		O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

<i>Search Notes</i> 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

CPC - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner
E21B33/068, E21B34/02, E21B41/00, E21B43/11, E21B43/26, E21B43/2607, F16K3/36, F16N11/00, F16N2210/00, F16N2210/02, F16N29/02, F16N39/00, F16N7/38, F16N7/40	10/07/2022	DPS
updated	11/19/2022	DPS

CPC Combination Sets - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US Classification - Searched*			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

* See search history printout included with this form or the SEARCH NOTES box below to determine the scope of the search.

Search Notes		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
SEARCH text, Inventor name, Forward/Backward search	10/07/2022	DPS

Interference Search			
US Class/CPC Symbol	US Subclass/CPC Group	Date	Examiner
see history		10/07/2022	DPS

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BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 6541

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.						
17/878,493	08/01/2022	166	3676	57959.12US02						
APPLICANTS Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK; INVENTORS Jordan Kuehn, Forest Park, IL; Austin Johnson, Edmond, OK; Ronnie B. Beason, Lexington, OK; Nicholas J. Cannon, Washington, OK; ** CONTINUING DATA ***** This application is a CON of 17/388,716 07/29/2021 PAT 11401779 which claims benefit of 63/189,663 05/17/2021 and is a CIP of 17/319,854 05/13/2021 which is a CIP of 16/855,749 04/22/2020 PAT 11480027 which claims benefit of 62/836,761 04/22/2019 and is a CIP of 16/248,648 01/15/2019 PAT 10724682 which claims benefit of 62/617,443 01/15/2018 and said 16/855,749 04/22/2020 is a CIP of 16/803,156 02/27/2020 PAT 11242724 which is a CIP of 16/248,633 01/15/2019 PAT 10584552 which claims benefit of 62/617,438 01/15/2018 and said 16/803,156 02/27/2020 is a CIP of 16/436,623 06/10/2019 PAT 11208856 which claims benefit of 62/755,170 11/02/2018 and said 16/803,156 02/27/2020 is a CIP of 16/100,741 08/10/2018 PAT 10689938 which claims benefit of 62/638,688 03/05/2018 and claims benefit of 62/638,681 03/05/2018 and claims benefit of 62/637,220 03/01/2018 and claims benefit of 62/637,215 03/01/2018 and claims benefit of 62/598,914 12/14/2017 ** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** ** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** ** SMALL ENTITY ** 08/11/2022										
<table border="1"> <tr> <td> Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No Verified and /DANIEL P Acknowledged STEPHENSON/ Examiner's Signature </td> <td> ☐ Met after Allowance Initials </td> <td> STATE OR COUNTRY IL </td> <td> SHEETS DRAWINGS 50 </td> <td> TOTAL CLAIMS 30 </td> <td> INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3 </td> </tr> </table>					Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No Verified and /DANIEL P Acknowledged STEPHENSON/ Examiner's Signature	☐ Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY IL	SHEETS DRAWINGS 50	TOTAL CLAIMS 30	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No Verified and /DANIEL P Acknowledged STEPHENSON/ Examiner's Signature	☐ Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY IL	SHEETS DRAWINGS 50	TOTAL CLAIMS 30	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3					
ADDRESS HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP IP Section 2323 Victory Avenue Suite 700										

Dallas, TX 75219 UNITED STATES		
TITLE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1730	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:	☐ All Fees
		☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing)
		☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time)
		☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue)
		☐ Other _____
		☐ Credit

PE2E SEARCH - Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	British Equivalents	Time Stamp
L1	42	(Artificial Intelligence) Similar to: 17/878,493 with 0 CPC Selections and 0 Text Selections Text: (US-20210355784-A1 OR US-20210324706-A1 OR US-20210262315-A1 OR US-11401779-B2 OR US-20210332665-A1 OR US-20200248529-A1 OR US-20190360637-A1 OR US-20190360636-A1 OR CA-3055026-A1 OR US-20170336022-A1 OR US-20220290547-A1 OR CA-3158915-A1 OR US-20200347990-A1 OR CA-3080175-A1 OR US-9447659-B2 OR WO-2020142638-A1 OR CA-3125461-A1 OR US-20210301638-A1 OR CA-2855789-C OR CA-2855789-A1 OR US-20160003006-A1 OR US-9869426-B2 OR US-20170002977-A1 OR US-20200332954-A1 OR US-11137109-B2 OR US-20210301933-A1 OR AU-2018439421-A2 OR JP-7094523-B2 OR JP-WO2020044514-A1 OR WO-2020044514-A1 OR AU-2018439421-A1 OR CN-112567159-A OR GB-2206912-A OR US-4377206-A OR WO-2013059251-A1 OR WO-2020219573-A1 OR CA-3137729-A1 OR US-11193349-B1 OR US-20130092395-A1 OR US-11255446-B1 OR US-20210054839-A1 OR GB-2579734-A8 OR US-4109713-A OR US-10100978-B2 OR	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN))	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:02 AM

L2	1	US-20180328536-A1 OR US-11047189-B2 OR US-11125385-B2 OR SG-191515-A1 OR US-20210381640-A1 OR GB-2579734-A).did. ("11401779").pn.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:05 AM
L3	93858	(E21B33/068 OR E21B34/02 OR E21B41/00 OR E21B43/11 OR E21B43/26 OR E21B43/2607 OR F16K3/36 OR F16N11/00 OR F16N2210/00 OR F16N2210/02 OR F16N29/02 OR F16N39/00 OR F16N7/38 OR F16N7/40).cpc.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN); FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:06 AM
L4	1	("20170275980").pn.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 05:48 PM
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L6	4	("20140352968" "20170123437" "20170275980" "20180179848").pn. OR ("11401779").urpn. AND (PGPB USPT USOC).dbnm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 06:37 PM
L7	4	beason.in. AND manifold.clm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 07:35 PM
L8	11	("2017/0275980").urpn. AND (PGPB USPT USOC).dbnm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 09:58 PM
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L10	3418	(manifold AND valve AND (second secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3) AND 3	IBM_TDB) (US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN); FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:15 PM
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L12	433	11 AND (@pd>"20221007")	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN); FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB)	OR	ON	ON	2022/11/18 04:08 PM

PE2E SEARCH - Search History (Interference)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	British Equivalents	Time Stamp
N1	5570	(manifold AND valve AND (second	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:33 PM

N2	675	secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3) .clm. (manifold AND valve AND (second secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3 AND condition AND open\$3) .clm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:34 PM
N3	675	(manifold AND valve AND (second secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3 AND condition AND open\$3) .clm. AND "3"	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:39 PM
N4	17108	(E21B33/068 OR E21B34/02 OR E21B41/00 OR E21B43/11 OR E21B43/26 OR E21B43/2607 OR F16K3/36 OR F16N11/00 OR F16N2210/00 OR F16N2210/02 OR F16N29/02 OR F16N39/00 OR F16N7/38 OR F16N7/40).cpc.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:40 PM
N5	16	N3 AND N4	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:40 PM
N6	18	N3 AND N4	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/11/18 04:38 PM



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
17/878,493	08/01/2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02

CONFIRMATION NO. 6541

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PUBLICATION NOTICE



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Title:HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION

The above-identified application will be electronically published as a patent application publication pursuant to 37 CFR 1.211, et seq. The patent application publication number and publication date are set forth above.

The publication may be accessed through the USPTO's publically available Searchable Databases via the Internet at www.uspto.gov. The direct link to access the publication is currently <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/>.

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Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	§	
Jordan Kuehn <i>et al.</i>	§	Group Art Unit: 3676
	§	
Application No.: 17/878,493	§	Examiner: Daniel P. Stephenson
	§	
Filing Date: August 1, 2022	§	Confirmation No.: 6541
	§	
For: Hydraulic Fracturing Plan and	§	Attorney Docket No.: 57959.12US02
Execution of Same	§	
	§	

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 14, 2022

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I. Introductory Comments

This document is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed October 14, 2022.

Estimated fees have been provided for by credit card separately but concurrently herewith for consideration of this document. If any additional fees, including any extension-of-time fees, are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees, including any extension-of-time fees, to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

Amendments to the Abstract are set forth on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this document.

II. Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract, on page 41 of the Specification, with the following amended Abstract (a clean version of the amended Abstract is also attached):

A hydraulic fracturing plan executable by a hydraulic fracturing system to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and gas wells. In one or more embodiments, the execution of the hydraulic fracturing plan implements the following steps: communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and, in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions: opening a second valve; communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and closing the first valve after opening the second valve.

III. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version(s), and listing(s), of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method, comprising:
communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve
being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied one or more conditions:
opening a second valve;
communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and
closing the first valve after opening the second valve.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
communicating fluid to a third well via the manifold and a third valve, the third
valve being associated with both the manifold and the third well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied the one or more conditions:
opening a fourth valve;
communicating fluid to a fourth well via the fourth valve; and
closing the third valve after opening the fourth valve.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein:
the first valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve;
and/or
the third valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more conditions include one
or more flow rate conditions.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
pumping the fluid into the manifold.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or
the second valve is a second zipper valve.
11. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:
a non-transitory computer readable medium; and
a plurality of instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium and executable by one or more processors, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are executed:
communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and

in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold
has satisfied one or more conditions:
opening a second valve;
communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and
closing the first valve after opening the second valve.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are also executed:
communicating fluid to a third well via the manifold and a third valve, the third valve being associated with both the manifold and the third well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions:
opening a fourth valve;
communicating fluid to a fourth well via the fourth valve; and
closing the third valve after opening the fourth valve.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:
the first valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve;
and/or
the third valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the one or more conditions include one or more flow rate conditions.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed: pumping the fluid into the manifold.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed: determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions.
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or
the second valve is a second zipper valve.
21. (Original) A system, comprising:
a first valve via which fluid is communicated from a manifold to a first well;
a second valve via which fluid is adapted to be communicated to a second well;
and
one or more controllers,
configured to:
open the second valve to thereby communicate fluid to the second
well via the second valve; and
close the first valve after opening the second valve,
in response to:

determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied one or more conditions.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a third valve via which fluid is communicated from the manifold to a third well;
a fourth valve via which the fluid is adapted to be communicated to a fourth well;
and
the one or more controllers,
configured to:
open the fourth valve to thereby communicate fluid to the fourth
well via the fourth valve; and
close the third valve after opening the fourth valve,
in response to:
determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied the one or more conditions.
23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the one or more controllers are further
configured to:
close the first valve after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve;
and/or
close the third valve after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.
24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more conditions include
one or more flow rate conditions.
25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the fluid communicated via the
manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of
the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.
27. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising the manifold.
28. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising one or more pumps; wherein the one or more controllers are further configured to cause the one or more pumps to pump the fluid into the manifold.
29. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
30. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein:
the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or
the second valve is a second zipper valve.
31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second valve is associated with both the manifold and the second well; and
wherein communicating fluid to the second well via the second valve comprises communicating fluid to the second well via the manifold and the second valve.
32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
33. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions comprises determining that a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the second valve is associated with both the manifold and the second well; and wherein communicating fluid to the second well via the second valve comprises communicating fluid to the second well via the manifold and the second valve.
35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
36. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions comprises determining that a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.
37. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the second valve is associated with both the manifold and the second well; and wherein communicating fluid to the second well via the second valve comprises communicating fluid to the second well via the manifold and the second valve.
38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.

IV. Remarks

A. Status of the Application

Claims 1-30 were previously pending.

Claims 1-30 have been maintained in their original form.

Claims 31-38 have been added.

As a result, claims 1-38 are pending.

No new subject matter has been added. In view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow, favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

B. Objection to the Specification

On page 3 of the Office Action mailed October 14, 2022 (the "Office Action"), the Abstract of the disclosure is objected to for allegedly being too short. In this regard, the Examiner requests correction, noting that the Abstract must be "a concise statement of the technical disclosure between 50-150 words." Applicant has amended the Abstract to address this alleged deficiency. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the Specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

C. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-30 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-36 of U.S. Patent No. 11,401,779 (the "'779 Patent"). An eTerminal Disclaimer was submitted and approved on November 7, 2022 to obviate the nonstatutory double patenting rejection. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-30 are allowable, and it is respectfully requested that the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 1-30 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

D. New Claims 31-38

New claims 31-33 depend upon and include the subject matter of independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as noted above with respect to independent claim 1.

New claims 34-36 depend upon and include the subject matter of independent claim 11, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as noted above with respect to independent claim 11.

New claims 37-38 depend upon and include the subject matter of independent claim 21, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as noted above with respect to independent claim 21.

E. Conclusion

It is believed that all matters set forth in the Office Action mailed October 14, 2022 have been addressed. Applicant has made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by submitting an eTerminal Disclaimer to obviate the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 1-30, adding claims 31-38, and submitting arguments in support of the patentability of claims 1-38.

In view of all of the above, the allowance of claims 1-38 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

/Zachary A. Halbur/

Date: November 7, 2022
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
Customer No. 27683
Telephone: 817-347-6678
IP Facsimile: 214-200-0853

Zachary A. Halbur
Registration No. 68,500

Attachment:

- Replacement Abstract



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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ELECTRONIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT

APPLICATION #
17/878,493

RECEIPT DATE / TIME
11/07/2022 02:34:59 PM ET

ATTORNEY DOCKET #
57959.12US02

Title of Invention

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

Application Information

APPLICATION TYPE Utility - Nonprovisional Application
under 35 USC 111(a)

PATENT # -

CONFIRMATION # 6541

FILED BY Q Dismuke

PATENT CENTER # 61150725

FILING DATE 08/01/2022

CUSTOMER # 27683

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Jordan Kuehn

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS -

AUTHORIZED BY Zachary Halbur

Documents

TOTAL DOCUMENTS: 5

DOCUMENT	PAGES	DESCRIPTION	SIZE (KB)
57959.12US02 Response.pdf	12	-	55 KB
57959.12US02 Response- A....pdf	(1-1) 1	Amendment/Request for Reconsideration-After Non- Final Rejection	17 KB
57959.12US02 Response- ABST.pdf	(2-2) 1	Abstract	18 KB
57959.12US02 Response- CLM.pdf	(3-9) 7	Claims	31 KB
57959.12US02 Response- REM.pdf	(10-12) 3	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment	21 KB

57959.12US02 Abstract.pdf	1	Abstract	12 KB
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Digest

DOCUMENT	MESSAGE DIGEST(SHA-512)
57959.12US02 Response.pdf	FCD42F1E7A6B90D12FE97333FA34427296EE39B66A1B2F7A9 63718955FF4CD2B486F5FFBABD82698D0028867427B3A31BF6 AB30022878CB7152470A0741062DA
57959.12US02 Response- A....pdf	39705916FC8571A71AFC194CECA986985D559C4D49FF59EB7 FFC439B150E7F17474044E11C4C7534AD830590EA095375447 804C781F5A5CDA007E3F2FE31B559
57959.12US02 Response- ABST.pdf	6C20CBB886FCB3CFA908154C6BE9DF68E0379CA9529F54AE 80C62629FADEB4A41ACB1F7CBF11C147556C7DC4920115F59 A8CE56D3CBED01AE02ABC8194B10927
57959.12US02 Response- CLM.pdf	041E20F50AC49D2F1084FBE3ACBF7D97F796C36ACD1B10868 6C028532DEC4F2C69872C7DC0BA85D5E7785C7E89C47BEF1 2D4A59320D4ABDA66653A873224BAC9
57959.12US02 Response- REM.pdf	F728D12D333F0B62BFE43CB5834AFB0A28FAF4D7635140F45 67F692D86482E34082291D63E1FAA7BB9608FF63FD8B98BBA1 5F9DE25302DB252C53A1D5F268A1E
57959.12US02 Abstract.pdf	223FECDD8D41E1039882D6EE0D9910532410E3AE8F5A47AAFB 58BC43DB543B166A2CA4D49E646C98071EB563AFA6AAD170 DB04A3CB1535FCE3B5B0A1FA1E33FFE

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.



**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450
www.uspto.gov

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT RECEIPT

APPLICATION #
17/878,493

RECEIPT DATE / TIME
11/07/2022 02:34:59 PM ET

ATTORNEY DOCKET #
57959.12US02

Title of Invention

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

Application Information

APPLICATION TYPE Utility - Nonprovisional Application
under 35 USC 111(a)

PATENT # -

CONFIRMATION # 6541

FILED BY Q Dismuke

PATENT CENTER # 61150725

AUTHORIZED BY Zachary Halbur

CUSTOMER # 27683

FILING DATE 08/01/2022

CORRESPONDENCE
ADDRESS -

FIRST NAMED
INVENTOR Jordan Kuehn

Payment Information

PAYMENT METHOD
CARD / 1103

PAYMENT TRANSACTION ID
E2022A7E36064489

PAYMENT AUTHORIZED BY
Q Dismuke

PRE-AUTHORIZED ACCOUNT
081394

PRE-AUTHORIZED CATEGORY
37 CFR 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

FEE CODE	DESCRIPTION	ITEM PRICE(\$)	QUANTITY	ITEM TOTAL(\$)
2202	EACH CLAIM IN EXCESS OF 20	50.00	8	400.00
TOTAL AMOUNT:				\$400.00

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

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New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

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Abstract

A hydraulic fracturing plan executable by a hydraulic fracturing system to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and gas wells. In one or more embodiments, the execution of the hydraulic fracturing plan implements the following steps: communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and, in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied one or more conditions: opening a second valve; communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and closing the first valve after opening the second valve.

Doc Code: DIST.E.FILE Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer - Filed		PTO/SB/26 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Department of Commerce	
Electronic Petition Request	TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBVIATE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A "PRIOR" PATENT		
Application Number	17878493		
Filing Date	01-Aug-2022		
First Named Inventor	Jordan Kuehn		
Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02		
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
☒ Filing of terminal disclaimer does not obviate requirement for response under 37 CFR 1.111 to outstanding Office Action ☒ This electronic Terminal Disclaimer is not being used for a Joint Research Agreement.			
Owner		Percent Interest	
DOWNING WELLHEAD EQUIPMENT, LLC		100%	
The owner(s) with percent interest listed above in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of prior patent number(s) 11401779 as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns. In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later: - expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee; - is held unenforceable; - is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction; - is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321; - has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate; - is reissued; or - is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. ☒ Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is included with Electronic Terminal Disclaimer request.			

☐ I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4), that the terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) required for this terminal disclaimer has already been paid in the above-identified application.	
Applicant claims the following fee status:	
☒ Small Entity ☐ Micro Entity ☐ Regular Undiscounted	
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.	
THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES	
I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am:	
☒ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who is of record in this application Registration Number <u>68500</u>	
☐ A sole inventor	
☐ A joint inventor; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all of the inventors as evidenced by the power of attorney in the application	
☐ A joint inventor; all of whom are signing this request	
Signature	/Zachary A. Halbur/
Name	Zachary A. Halbur

*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner).
 Form PTO/SB/96 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP § 324.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		17878493		
Filing Date:		01-Aug-2022		
Title of Invention:		HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Jordan Kuehn		
Filer:		Zachary Arnold Halbur/Q Dismuke		
Attorney Docket Number:		57959.12US02		
Filed as Small Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
STATUTORY OR TERMINAL DISCLAIMER	2814	1	170	170
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				170

Doc Code: DISQ.E.FILE

Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer – Approved

Application No.: 17878493

Filing Date: 01-Aug-2022

Applicant/Patent under Reexamination: Kuehn

Electronic Terminal Disclaimer filed on November 7, 2022

☒ APPROVED

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer

☐ DISAPPROVED

Approved/Disapproved by: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer automatically approved by EFS-Web

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	46972661
Application Number:	17878493
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6541
Title of Invention:	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Jordan Kuehn
Customer Number:	27683
Filer:	Zachary Arnold Halbur/Q Dismuke
Filer Authorized By:	Zachary Arnold Halbur
Attorney Docket Number:	57959.12US02
Receipt Date:	07-NOV-2022
Filing Date:	01-AUG-2022
Time Stamp:	13:35:32
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	CARD
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$170
RAM confirmation Number	E2022A7D35293161
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:	

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Terminal Disclaimer-Filed (Electronic)	eTerminal-Disclaimer.pdf	41515	no	2
			19214c65ef807b73f279e681cbb60fca25f69bb4		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	38213	no	2
			07e17dc4210aaccada4688dbf4cde2cc412e9348		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			79728		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875				Application or Docket Number 17/878,493		Filing Date 08/01/2022		☐ To be Mailed				
ENTITY: ☐ LARGE ☒ SMALL ☐ MICRO												
APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I												
		(Column 1)	(Column 2)									
FOR		NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA		RATE (\$)		FEE (\$)					
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))		N/A	N/A		N/A							
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))		N/A	N/A		N/A							
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))		N/A	N/A		N/A							
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))		minus 20 =	*		x \$50 =							
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))		minus 3 =	*		x \$240 =							
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))		If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).										
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))												
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.						TOTAL						
APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II												
		(Column 1)	(Column 2)		(Column 3)							
AMENDMENT	11/07/2022	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)					
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(j))	* 38	Minus	** 30	= 8	x \$50 =	400					
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 3	Minus	*** 3	= 0	x \$240 =	0					
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))											
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))											
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		400				
AMENDMENT		(Column 1)	(Column 2)		(Column 3)							
		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)					
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(j))	*	Minus	**	=	x \$0 =						
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	x \$0 =						
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))											
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))												
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE						
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.						OPAC						
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".						/BRIDGET C. MONROE/						
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".												
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.												

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
17/878,493	08/01/2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02	6541
27683 7590 10/14/2022 HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP IP Section 2323 Victory Avenue Suite 700 Dallas, TX 75219			EXAMINER STEPHENSON, DANIEL P	
			ART UNIT 3676	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/14/2022	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ipdocketing@haynesboone.com

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status

1. The present application, filed on or after March 16, 2013, is being examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. The abstract should also mention by way of example any preferred modifications or alternatives.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following: (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation; (2) if an article, its method of making; (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use; (4) if a mixture, its ingredients; (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of an apparatus should not be included in the abstract. The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph within the range of 50 to 150 words in length.

See MPEP § 608.01(b) for guidelines for the preparation of patent abstracts.

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too short. As stated above, it should be a concise statement of the technical disclosure between 50-150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Double Patenting

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on nonstatutory double patenting provided the reference application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with the examined application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement. See MPEP § 717.02 for applications subject to examination under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA as explained in MPEP § 2159. See MPEP § 2146 *et seq.* for applications not subject to examination under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA. A terminal disclaimer must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b).

The USPTO Internet website contains terminal disclaimer forms which may be used. Please visit www.uspto.gov/patent/patents-forms. The filing date of the application in which the form is filed

determines what form (e.g., PTO/SB/25, PTO/SB/26, PTO/AIA/25, or PTO/AIA/26) should be used. A web-based eTerminal Disclaimer may be filled out completely online using web-screens. An eTerminal Disclaimer that meets all requirements is auto-processed and approved immediately upon submission. For more information about eTerminal Disclaimers, refer to www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/efs/guidance/eTD-info-I.jsp.

5. Claims 1-30 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-36 of U.S. Patent No. 11,401,779. Although the claims at issue are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the present application merely remove limitations and/or have minor obvious changes in claim language that do not rise to the level of being patentably distinct from the '779 claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited all show similar features to those of the claimed invention.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL P STEPHENSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7035. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 10am-6pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Fuller can be reached on (571) 272-6300. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of published or unpublished applications may be obtained from Patent Center. Unpublished application information in Patent Center is available to registered users. To

file and manage patent submissions in Patent Center, visit: <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. Visit <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center> for more information about Patent Center and <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx> for information about filing in DOCX format. For additional questions, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DANIEL P STEPHENSON/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676

<i>Notice of References Cited</i>	Application/Control No. 17/878,493		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.	
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON		Art Unit 3676	Page 1 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	CPC Classification	US Classification
*	A	US-11401779-B2	08-2022	Kuehn; Jordan	F16N7/40	1/1
*	B	US-20210262315-A1	08-2021	Beason; Ronnie B.	E21B43/11	1/1
*	C	US-20210324706-A1	10-2021	Beason; Ronnie B.	E21B17/006	1/1
*	D	US-20200347990-A1	11-2020	McKim; Noel	F16N25/00	1/1
*	E	US-20200248529-A1	08-2020	Beason; Ronnie B.	E21B4/003	1/1
*	F	US-11137109-B2	10-2021	Babineaux; Chad	F16N11/08	1/1
*	G	US-20210301638-A1	09-2021	Boyd; Joseph Mark	E21B43/2607	1/1
*	H	US-11047189-B2	06-2021	Fernandes; Paulo Dore	E21B47/09	1/1
*	I	US-20210301933-A1	09-2021	ASANOMA; Susumu	F16K3/36	1/1
*	J	US-20170336022-A1	11-2017	Gouge; Lee C.	F16N25/00	1/1
*	K	US-20170275980-A1	09-2017	Kajaria; Saurabh	E21B43/26	1/1
*	L	US-20170123437-A1	05-2017	Boyd; Joseph Mark	G05D7/0641	1/1
*	M	US-20140352968-A1	12-2014	Pitcher; Jason L.	E21B43/2607	166/308.1

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	CPC Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTO-892 (Rev. 01-2001)

Notice of References Cited

Part of Paper No. 20221007

<i>Notice of References Cited</i>	Application/Control No. 17/878,493		Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.	
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON		Art Unit 3676	Page 2 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	CPC Classification	US Classification
*	A	US-20180179848-A1	06-2018	CHEREWYK; Boris (Bruce) P.	E21B33/068	1/1
*	B	US-11396799-B2	07-2022	Johnson; Austin C.	E21B43/2607	1/1
*	C	US-11306835-B1	04-2022	Dille; Mark C.	G05D7/0173	1/1
*	D	US-10801294-B2	10-2020	Jespersen; Michael David	E21B33/068	1/1
*	E	US-10563778-B2	02-2020	Painter; Jay Patrick	E21B34/00	1/1
*	F	US-11460368-B2	10-2022	Yeung; Tony	E21B34/08	1/1
*	G	US-20210188616-A1	06-2021	Shock; Ricky Dean	B67D7/20	1/1
*	H	US-10174584-B2	01-2019	Kajaria; Saurabh	F16K17/16	1/1
	I					
	J					
	K					
	L					
	M					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	CPC Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTO-892 (Rev. 01-2001)

Notice of References Cited

Part of Paper No. 20221007

<i>Search Notes</i> 	Application/Control No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination Kuehn et al.
	Examiner DANIEL P STEPHENSON	Art Unit 3676

CPC - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner
E21B33/068, E21B34/02, E21B41/00, E21B43/11, E21B43/26, E21B43/2607, F16K3/36, F16N11/00, F16N2210/00, F16N2210/02, F16N29/02, F16N39/00, F16N7/38, F16N7/40	10/07/2022	DPS

CPC Combination Sets - Searched*		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US Classification - Searched*			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

* See search history printout included with this form or the SEARCH NOTES box below to determine the scope of the search.

Search Notes		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
SEARCH text, Inventor name, Forward/Backward search	10/07/2022	DPS

Interference Search			
US Class/CPC Symbol	US Subclass/CPC Group	Date	Examiner
see history		10/07/2022	DPS

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PE2E SEARCH - Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	British Equivalents	Time Stamp
L1	42	(Artificial Intelligence) Similar to: 17/878,493 with 0 CPC Selections and 0 Text Selections Text: (US-20210355784-A1 OR US-20210324706-A1 OR US-20210262315-A1 OR US-11401779-B2 OR US-20210332665-A1 OR US-20200248529-A1 OR US-20190360637-A1 OR US-20190360636-A1 OR CA-3055026-A1 OR US-20170336022-A1 OR US-20220290547-A1 OR CA-3158915-A1 OR US-20200347990-A1 OR CA-3080175-A1 OR US-9447659-B2 OR WO-2020142638-A1 OR CA-3125461-A1 OR US-20210301638-A1 OR CA-2855789-C OR CA-2855789-A1 OR US-20160003006-A1 OR US-9869426-B2 OR US-20170002977-A1 OR US-20200332954-A1 OR US-11137109-B2 OR US-20210301933-A1 OR AU-2018439421-A2 OR JP-7094523-B2 OR JP-WO2020044514-A1 OR WO-2020044514-A1 OR AU-2018439421-A1 OR CN-112567159-A OR GB-2206912-A OR US-4377206-A OR WO-2013059251-A1 OR WO-2020219573-A1 OR CA-3137729-A1 OR US-11193349-B1 OR US-20130092395-A1 OR US-11255446-B1 OR US-20210054839-A1 OR GB-2579734-A8 OR US-4109713-A OR US-10100978-B2 OR	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN))	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:02 AM

L2	1	US-20180328536-A1 OR US-11047189-B2 OR US-11125385-B2 OR SG-191515-A1 OR US-20210381640-A1 OR GB-2579734-A).did. ("11401779").pn.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:05 AM
L3	93858	(E21B33/068 OR E21B34/02 OR E21B41/00 OR E21B43/11 OR E21B43/26 OR E21B43/2607 OR F16K3/36 OR F16N11/00 OR F16N2210/00 OR F16N2210/02 OR F16N29/02 OR F16N39/00 OR F16N7/38 OR F16N7/40).cpc.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN); FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:06 AM
L4	1	("20170275980").pn.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 05:48 PM
L5	0	("11480028").pn.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 06:04 PM
L6	4	("20140352968" "20170123437" "20170275980" "20180179848").pn. OR ("11401779").urpn. AND (PGPB USPT USOC).dbnm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 06:37 PM
L7	4	beason.in. AND manifold.clm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 07:35 PM
L8	11	("2017/0275980").urpn. AND (PGPB USPT USOC).dbnm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 09:58 PM
L9	10	8 AND manifold	(US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN); FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT;	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 09:59 PM

L10	3418	(manifold AND valve AND (second secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3) AND 3	IBM_TDB) (US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FIT (AU, AP, AT, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CS, CU, CZ, DD, DE, DK, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IS, IT, JP, KR, LT, LU, LV, MA, OA, RU, SU, WO, MC, MD, MY, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TN, TR, TW, UA, VN); FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT; IBM_TDB)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:15 PM
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PE2E SEARCH - Search History (Interference)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	British Equivalents	Time Stamp
N1	5570	(manifold AND valve AND (second secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3) .clm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:33 PM
N2	675	(manifold AND valve AND (second secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3 AND condition AND open\$3) .clm.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:34 PM
N3	675	(manifold AND valve AND (second secondary) AND fluid AND clos\$3 AND condition AND open\$3) .clm. AND "3"	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:39 PM
N4	17108	(E21B33/068 OR E21B34/02 OR E21B41/00 OR E21B43/11 OR E21B43/26 OR E21B43/2607 OR F16K3/36 OR F16N11/00 OR F16N2210/00 OR F16N2210/02 OR F16N29/02 OR F16N39/00 OR F16N7/38 OR F16N7/40).cpc.	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:40 PM
N5	16	N3 AND N4	(US-PGPUB; USPAT)	OR	ON	ON	2022/10/07 10:40 PM



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BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 6541

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.								
17/878,493	08/01/2022 RULE	166	3676	57959.12US02								
APPLICANTS Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK; INVENTORS Jordan Kuehn, Forest Park, IL; Austin Johnson, Edmond, OK; Ronnie B. Beason, Lexington, OK; Nicholas J. Cannon, Washington, OK; ** CONTINUING DATA ***** This application is a CON of 17/388,716 07/29/2021 PAT 11401779 which claims benefit of 63/189,663 05/17/2021 and is a CIP of 17/319,854 05/13/2021 which is a CIP of 16/855,749 04/22/2020 PAT 11480027 which claims benefit of 62/836,761 04/22/2019 and is a CIP of 16/248,648 01/15/2019 PAT 10724682 which claims benefit of 62/617,443 01/15/2018 and said 16/855,749 04/22/2020 is a CIP of 16/803,156 02/27/2020 PAT 11242724 which is a CIP of 16/248,633 01/15/2019 PAT 10584552 which claims benefit of 62/617,438 01/15/2018 and said 16/803,156 02/27/2020 is a CIP of 16/436,623 06/10/2019 PAT 11208856 which claims benefit of 62/755,170 11/02/2018 and said 16/803,156 02/27/2020 is a CIP of 16/100,741 08/10/2018 PAT 10689938 which claims benefit of 62/638,688 03/05/2018 and claims benefit of 62/638,681 03/05/2018 and claims benefit of 62/637,220 03/01/2018 and claims benefit of 62/637,215 03/01/2018 and claims benefit of 62/598,914 12/14/2017 ** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** ** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** ** SMALL ENTITY ** 08/11/2022												
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No</td> <td rowspan="3"> ☐ Met after Allowance Initials </td> <td rowspan="3">STATE OR COUNTRY IL</td> <td rowspan="3">SHEETS DRAWINGS 50</td> <td rowspan="3">TOTAL CLAIMS 30</td> <td rowspan="3">INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Verified and /DANIEL P Acknowledged STEPHENSON/ Examiner's Signature </td> </tr> </table>					Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY IL	SHEETS DRAWINGS 50	TOTAL CLAIMS 30	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3	35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No	Verified and /DANIEL P Acknowledged STEPHENSON/ Examiner's Signature
Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY IL	SHEETS DRAWINGS 50	TOTAL CLAIMS 30	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3							
35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No												
Verified and /DANIEL P Acknowledged STEPHENSON/ Examiner's Signature												
ADDRESS HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP IP Section 2323 Victory Avenue Suite 700												

Dallas, TX 75219 UNITED STATES		
TITLE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1330	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:	☐ All Fees
		☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing)
		☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time)
		☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue)
		☐ Other _____
		☐ Credit



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
17/878,493	08/01/2022	Jordan Kuehn	57959.12US02	6541
27683 7590 09/01/2022 HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP IP Section 2323 Victory Avenue Suite 700 Dallas, TX 75219			EXAMINER CENTRAL, DOCKET	
			ART UNIT OPAP	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/01/2022	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ipdocketing@haynesboone.com

<i>Decision Granting Request for Prioritized Examination (Track I)</i>	Application No. 17/878,493	Applicant(s) Kuehn et al.	
	Examiner FIKIRTE A GEREMEW	Art Unit OMBL	AIA (FITF) Status Yes
1. THE REQUEST FILED <u>01 August 2022</u> IS GRANTED . The above-identified application has met the requirements for prioritized examination A. ☒ for an original nonprovisional application (Track I). B. ☐ for an application undergoing continued examination (RCE). 2. The above-identified application will undergo prioritized examination. The application will be accorded special status throughout its entire course of prosecution until one of the following occurs: A. filing a <u>petition for extension of time</u> to extend the time period for filing a reply; B. filing an <u>amendment to amend the application to contain more than four independent claims, more than thirty total claims</u>, or a multiple dependent claim; C. filing a <u>request for continued examination</u> ; D. filing a notice of appeal; E. filing a request for suspension of action; F. mailing of a notice of allowance; G. mailing of a final Office action; H. completion of examination as defined in 37 CFR 41.102; or I. abandonment of the application. Telephone inquiries with regard to this decision should be directed to FIKIRTE GEREMEW at (703) 756-1930. In his/her absence, calls may be directed to Petition Help Desk at (571) 272-3282.			
/FIKIRTE A GEREMEW/ PROGRAM SUPPORT ASSISTANT, OMBL			

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875						Application or Docket Number 17/878,493	
APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A	80		N/A	
SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A	350		N/A	
EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A	400		N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))	30	minus 20 = 10	x 50 =	500	OR		
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	3	minus 3 = *	x 240 =	0.00			
APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).			0.00			
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))				0.00			
			TOTAL	1330		TOTAL	
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.							
APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus **	=	x	=	OR
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus ***	=	x	=	OR
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))					OR	
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))					OR	
			TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus **	=	x	=	OR
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus ***	=	x	=	OR
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))					OR	
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))					OR	
			TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest found in the appropriate box in column 1.							



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
17/878,493	08/01/2022	2649	1330	57959.12US02	30	3

CONFIRMATION NO. 6541

FILING RECEIPT



0000000135785842

27683
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
IP Section
2323 Victory Avenue
Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75219

Date Mailed: 08/12/2022

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional utility patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection.

Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a corrected Filing Receipt, including a properly marked-up ADS showing the changes with strike-through for deletions and underlining for additions. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" or other Notice requiring a response for this application, please submit any request for correction to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections provided that the request is grantable.

Inventor(s)

Jordan Kuehn, Forest Park, IL;
Austin Johnson, Edmond, OK;
Ronnie B. Beason, Lexington, OK;
Nicholas J. Cannon, Washington, OK;

Applicant(s)

Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 27683

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 17/388,716 07/29/2021 PAT 11401779
which claims benefit of 63/189,663 05/17/2021
and is a CIP of 17/319,854 05/13/2021
which is a CIP of 16/855,749 04/22/2020
which claims benefit of 62/836,761 04/22/2019
and is a CIP of 16/248,648 01/15/2019 PAT 10724682
which claims benefit of 62/617,443 01/15/2018
and said 16/855,749 04/22/2020
is a CIP of 16/803,156 02/27/2020 PAT 11242724
which is a CIP of 16/248,633 01/15/2019 PAT 10584552
which claims benefit of 62/617,438 01/15/2018
and said 16/803,156 02/27/2020
is a CIP of 16/436,623 06/10/2019 PAT 11208856

which claims benefit of 62/755,170 11/02/2018
and said 16/803,156 02/27/2020
is a CIP of 16/100,741 08/10/2018 PAT 10689938
which claims benefit of 62/638,688 03/05/2018
and claims benefit of 62/638,681 03/05/2018
and claims benefit of 62/637,220 03/01/2018
and claims benefit of 62/637,215 03/01/2018
and claims benefit of 62/598,914 12/14/2017

Foreign Applications for which priority is claimed (You may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at the USPTO. Please see <http://www.uspto.gov> for more information.) - None.

Foreign application information must be provided in an Application Data Sheet in order to constitute a claim to foreign priority. See 37 CFR 1.55 and 1.76.

Permission to Access Application via Priority Document Exchange: Yes

Permission to Access Search Results: Yes

Applicant may provide or rescind an authorization for access using Form PTO/SB/39 or Form PTO/SB/69 as appropriate.

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 08/11/2022

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 17/878,493**

Projected Publication Date: 11/17/2022

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

Title

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

Preliminary Class

455

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications: No

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ

page 2 of 4

in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

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Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

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No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

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The United States represents the largest, most dynamic marketplace in the world and is an unparalleled location for business investment, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. The U.S. offers tremendous resources and advantages for those who invest and manufacture goods here. Through SelectUSA, our nation works to promote and facilitate business investment. SelectUSA provides information assistance to the international investor community; serves as an ombudsman for existing and potential investors; advocates on behalf of U.S. cities, states, and regions competing for global investment; and counsels U.S. economic development organizations on investment attraction best practices. To learn more about why the United States is the best country in the world to develop technology, manufacture products, deliver services, and grow your business, visit <http://www.SelectUSA.gov> or call +1-202-482-6800.

POWER OF ATTORNEY TO PROSECUTE APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE USPTO

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the application identified in the attached statement under 37 CFR 3.73(c).

I hereby appoint:

☒ Practitioners associated with Customer Number: 27683

OR

☐ Practitioner(s) named below (if more than ten patent practitioners are to be named, then a customer number must be used):

Name	Registration Number

Name	Registration Number

As attorney(s) or agent(s) to represent the undersigned before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in connection with any and all patent applications assigned only to the undersigned according to the USPTO assignment records or assignment documents attached to this form in accordance with 37 CFR 3.73(c).

Please change the correspondence address for the application identified in the attached statement under 37 CFR 3.73(c) to:

☒ The address associated with Customer Number: 27683

OR

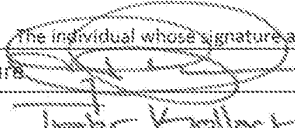
☐ Firm or individual name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Country		
Telephone		Email

Assignee name and address: Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC
3829 S.W. 2nd Street
Oklahoma City, OH 73128

A copy of this form, together with a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(c) (Form PTO/AIA/96 or equivalent) is required to be filed in each application in which this form is used. The statement under 37 CFR 3.73(c) may be completed by one of the practitioners appointed in this form, and must identify the application in which this Power of Attorney is to be filed.

SIGNATURE of Assignee of Record

The individual whose signature and title is supplied below is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

Signature 	Date 9/27/21
Name Tyler K. Pollack	Telephone 1.405.847.6079
Title Corporate Counsel	Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31, 1.32, and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to update (and by the USPTO to process) the file of a patent or reexamination proceeding. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.13 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 28 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-6199 and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76. This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application.			

Secrecy Order 37 CFR 5.2:

☐ Portions or all of the application associated with this Application Data Sheet may fall under a Secrecy Order pursuant to 37 CFR 5.2 (Paper filers only. Applications that fall under Secrecy Order may not be filed electronically.)

Inventor Information:

Inventor	1				Remove	
Legal Name						
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix		
	Jordan		Kuehn			
Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service						
City	Forest Park	State/Province	IL	Country of Residence	US	
Mailing Address of Inventor:						
Address 1	8528 S.W. 2nd Street					
Address 2						
City	Oklahoma City	State/Province	OK			
Postal Code	73128	Country	US			
Inventor	2				Remove	
Legal Name						
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix		
	Austin		Johnson			
Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service						
City	Edmond	State/Province	OK	Country of Residence	US	
Mailing Address of Inventor:						
Address 1	8528 S.W. 2nd Street					
Address 2						
City	Oklahoma City	State/Province	OK			
Postal Code	73128	Country	US			
Inventor	3				Remove	
Legal Name						
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix		
	Ronnie	B.	Beason			
Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service						

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

City	Lexington	State/Province	OK	Country of Residence	US
------	-----------	----------------	----	----------------------	----

Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	3528 S.W. 2nd Street				
Address 2					
City	Oklahoma City	State/Province	OK		
Postal Code	73128	Country i	US		
Inventor	4				Remove
Legal Name					

Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix
	Nicholas	J.	Cannon	

Residence Information (Select One) ☒ US Residency ☐ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service

City	Washington	State/Province	OK	Country of Residence	US
------	------------	----------------	----	----------------------	----

Mailing Address of Inventor:

Address 1	3528 S.W. 2nd Street				
Address 2					
City	Oklahoma City	State/Province	OK		
Postal Code	73128	Country i	US		
All Inventors Must Be Listed - Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.					

Correspondence Information:

Enter either Customer Number or complete the Correspondence Information section below.
For further information see 37 CFR 1.33(a).

☐ An Address is being provided for the correspondence Information of this application.

Customer Number	27683		
Email Address	ipdocketing@haynesboone.com	Add Email	Remove Email

Application Information:

Title of the Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02	Small Entity Status Claimed	☒
Application Type	Nonprovisional		
Subject Matter	Utility		
Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any)	50	Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)	1A

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

Filing By Reference:

Only complete this section when filing an application by reference under 35 U.S.C. 111(c) and 37 CFR 1.57(a). Do not complete this section if application papers including a specification and any drawings are being filed. Any domestic benefit or foreign priority information must be provided in the appropriate section(s) below (i.e., "Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information" and "Foreign Priority Information").

For the purposes of a filing date under 37 CFR 1.53(b), the description and any drawings of the present application are replaced by this reference to the previously filed application, subject to conditions and requirements of 37 CFR 1.57(a).

Application number of the previously filed application	Filing date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Intellectual Property Authority or Country

Publication Information:

☐ Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)

☐ **Request Not to Publish.** I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application **has not and will not** be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

Representative Information:

Representative information should be provided for all practitioners having a power of attorney in the application. Providing this information in the Application Data Sheet does not constitute a power of attorney in the application (see 37 CFR 1.32). Either enter Customer Number or complete the Representative Name section below. If both sections are completed the customer Number will be used for the Representative Information during processing.

Please Select One:	☒ Customer Number	☐ US Patent Practitioner	☐ Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9)
Customer Number	27683		

Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information:

This section allows for the applicant to either claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, 365(c), or 386(c) or indicate National Stage entry from a PCT application. Providing benefit claim information in the Application Data Sheet constitutes the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120, and 37 CFR 1.78.

When referring to the current application, please leave the "Application Number" field blank.

Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
	Continuation of	17/388716	2021-07-29

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
17/388716	Claims benefit of provisional	63/189663	2021-05-17		
Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
17/388716	Continuation in part of	17/319854	2021-05-13		
Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
17/319854	Continuation in part of	16/855749	2020-04-22		
Prior Application Status	Expired	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
16/855749	Claims benefit of provisional	62/836761	2019-04-22		
Prior Application Status	Patented	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
16/855749	Continuation in part of	16/248648	2019-01-15	10724682	2020-07-28
Prior Application Status	Expired	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
16/248648	Claims benefit of provisional	62/617443	2018-01-15		
Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
16/855749	Continuation in part of	16/803156	2020-02-27		
Prior Application Status	Patented	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
16/803156	Continuation in part of	16/248633	2019-01-15	10584552	2020-03-10
Prior Application Status	Expired	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
16/248633	Claims benefit of provisional	62/617438	2018-01-15		

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

Prior Application Status	Pending					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)			
16/803156	Continuation in part of	16/436623	2019-06-10			
Prior Application Status	Expired					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)			
16/436623	Claims benefit of provisional	62/755170	2018-11-02			
Prior Application Status	Patented					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	
16/803156	Continuation in part of	16/100741	2018-08-10	10689938	2020-06-23	
Prior Application Status	Expired					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)			
16/100741	Claims benefit of provisional	62/638688	2018-03-05			
Prior Application Status	Expired					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)			
16/100741	Claims benefit of provisional	62/638681	2018-03-05			
Prior Application Status	Expired					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)			
16/100741	Claims benefit of provisional	62/637220	2018-03-01			
Prior Application Status	Expired					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)			
16/100741	Claims benefit of provisional	62/637215	2018-03-01			
Prior Application Status	Expired					Remove
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)			
16/100741	Claims benefit of provisional	62/598914	2017-12-14			
Additional Domestic Benefit/National Stage Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.						Add

Foreign Priority Information:

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

This section allows for the applicant to claim priority to a foreign application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the claim for priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and 37 CFR 1.55. When priority is claimed to a foreign application that is eligible for retrieval under the priority document exchange program (PDX)ⁱ the information will be used by the Office to automatically attempt retrieval pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55(i)(1) and (2). Under the PDX program, applicant bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that a copy of the foreign application is received by the Office from the participating foreign intellectual property office, or a certified copy of the foreign priority application is filed, within the time period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(g)(1).

Application Number	Country ⁱ	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Access Code ⁱ (if applicable)	Remove

Additional Foreign Priority Data may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications

☐ This application (1) claims priority to or the benefit of an application filed before March 16, 2013 and (2) also contains, or contained at any time, a claim to a claimed invention that has an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013.

NOTE: By providing this statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78, this application, with a filing date on or after March 16, 2013, will be examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access:

When this Application Data Sheet is properly signed and filed with the application, applicant has provided written authority to permit a participating foreign intellectual property (IP) office access to the instant application-as-filed (see paragraph A in subsection 1 below) and the European Patent Office (EPO) access to any search results from the instant application (see paragraph B in subsection 1 below).

Should applicant choose not to provide an authorization identified in subsection 1 below, applicant **must opt-out** of the authorization by checking the corresponding box A or B or both in subsection 2 below.

NOTE: This section of the Application Data Sheet is **ONLY** reviewed and processed with the **INITIAL** filing of an application. After the initial filing of an application, an Application Data Sheet cannot be used to provide or rescind authorization for access by a foreign IP office(s). Instead, Form PTO/SB/39 or PTO/SB/69 must be used as appropriate.

1. Authorization to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

A. Priority Document Exchange (PDX) - Unless box A in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and any other foreign intellectual property office participating with the USPTO in a bilateral or multilateral priority document exchange agreement in which a foreign application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed, access to: (1) the instant patent application-as-filed and its related bibliographic data, (2) any foreign or domestic application to which priority or benefit is claimed by the instant application and its related bibliographic data, and (3) the date of filing of this Authorization. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(1).

B. Search Results from U.S. Application to EPO - Unless box B in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the EPO access to the bibliographic data and search results from the instant patent application when a European patent application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(2).

The applicant is reminded that the EPO's Rule 141(1) EPC (European Patent Convention) requires applicants to submit a copy of search results from the instant application without delay in a European patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

2. Opt-Out of Authorizations to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

☐ A. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to permit a participating foreign IP office access to the instant application-as-filed. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing a participating foreign IP office with any documents and information identified in subsection 1A above.

☐ B. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to transmit to the EPO any search results from the instant patent application. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing the EPO with search results from the instant application.

NOTE: Once the application has published or is otherwise publicly available, the USPTO may provide access to the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

Applicant Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.			
Applicant	1	<button>Remove</button>	
If the applicant is the inventor (or the remaining joint inventor or inventors under 37 CFR 1.45), this section should not be completed. The information to be provided in this section is the name and address of the legal representative who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.43; or the name and address of the assignee, person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign the invention, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.46. If the applicant is an applicant under 37 CFR 1.46 (assignee, person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest) together with one or more joint inventors, then the joint inventor or inventors who are also the applicant should be identified in this section.			
		<button>Clear</button>	
☐ Assignee	Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117		Joint Inventor
Person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign.		Person who shows sufficient proprietary interest	
If applicant is the legal representative, indicate the authority to file the patent application, the inventor is:			
Name of the Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor:			
If the Applicant is an Organization check here. ☒			
Organization Name	Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC		
Mailing Address Information For Applicant:			
Address 1	3528 S.W. 2nd Street		
Address 2			
City	Oklahoma City	State/Province	OK
Country	US	Postal Code	73128
Phone Number		Fax Number	
Email Address			
Additional Applicant Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. <button>Add</button>			

Assignee Information including Non-Applicant Assignee Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

Assignee 1				
Complete this section if assignee information, including non-applicant assignee information, is desired to be included on the patent application publication. An assignee-applicant identified in the "Applicant Information" section will appear on the patent application publication as an applicant. For an assignee-applicant, complete this section only if identification as an assignee is also desired on the patent application publication.				
Remove				
If the Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee is an Organization check here. ☐				
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix
Mailing Address Information For Assignee including Non-Applicant Assignee:				
Address 1				
Address 2				
City		State/Province		
Country i		Postal Code		
Phone Number		Fax Number		
Email Address				
Additional Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add				

Signature:

NOTE: This Application Data Sheet must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33(b). **However, if this Application Data Sheet is submitted with the INITIAL filing of the application and either box A or B is not checked in subsection 2 of the "Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access" section, then this form must also be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14(c).**

This Application Data Sheet **must** be signed by a patent practitioner if one or more of the applicants is a **juristic entity** (e.g., corporation or association). If the applicant is two or more joint inventors, this form must be signed by a patent practitioner, **all** joint inventors who are the applicant, or one or more joint inventor-applicants who have been given power of attorney (e.g., see USPTO Form PTO/AIA/81) on behalf of **all** joint inventor-applicants.

See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the manner of making signatures and certifications.

Signature	Zachary A. Halbur/		Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2022-08-01	
First Name	Zachary A.	Last Name	Halbur	Registration Number	68500
Additional Signature may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add					

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	57959.12US02
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.76. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 23 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application data sheet form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(c)Applicant/Patent Owner: Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLCApplication No./Patent No.: Filed herewith Filed/Issue Date: HerewithTitled: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAMEDowning Wellhead Equipment, LLC, a Corporation

(Name of Assignee)

(Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that, for the patent application/patent identified above, it is (choose one of options 1, 2, 3 or 4 below):

1. ☒ The assignee of the entire right, title, and interest.
2. ☐ An assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest (check applicable box):
- ☐ The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is ____%. Additional Statement(s) by the owners holding the balance of the interest must be submitted to account for 100% of the ownership interest.
- ☐ There are unspecified percentages of ownership. The other parties, including inventors, who together own the entire right, title and interest are:

Additional Statement(s) by the owner(s) holding the balance of the interest must be submitted to account for the entire right, title, and interest.

3. ☐ The assignee of an undivided interest in the entirety (a complete assignment from one of the joint inventors was made). The other parties, including inventors, who together own the entire right, title, and interest are:

Additional Statement(s) by the owner(s) holding the balance of the interest must be submitted to account for the entire right, title, and interest.

4. ☐ The recipient, via a court proceeding or the like (e.g., bankruptcy, probate), of an undivided interest in the entirety (a complete transfer of ownership interest was made). The certified document(s) showing the transfer is attached.

The interest identified in option 1, 2 or 3 above (not option 4) is evidenced by either (choose one of options A or B below):

- A. ☒ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 057692, Frame 0640, or for which a copy thereof is attached.
- B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

1. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

[Page 1 of 2]

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(c)

3. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
 Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

4. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
 Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

5. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
 Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

6. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
 Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet(s).

☐ As required by 37 CFR 3.73(c)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was, or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

[NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

/Zachary A. Halbur/

August 1, 2022

Signature

Date

Zachary A. Halbur

68,500

Printed or Typed Name

Title or Registration Number

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

PATENT ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS,

Jordan Kuehn, a citizen of the United States of America residing in Forest Park, Illinois; and

Austin Johnson, a citizen of the United States of America residing in Edmond, Oklahoma; and

Ronnie B. Beason, a citizen of the United States of America residing in Lexington, Oklahoma; and

Nicholas J. Cannon, a citizen of the United State of America residing in Washington, Oklahoma ("ASSIGNORS");

have invented certain designs and improvements in

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

for which U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/189,663 was filed on May 17, 2021; and for which U.S. Nonprovisional Patent Application No. 17/388,716 was filed on July 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Downing Wellhead Equipment, LLC ("ASSIGNEE"), a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Oklahoma, with offices located at 8528 S.W. 2nd Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73128, is desirous of obtaining the inventors' entire right, title, and interest in, to and under the inventions, the applications and corresponding applications worldwide;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for good and valuable consideration to the ASSIGNORS, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the ASSIGNORS have sold, assigned, transferred and set over, and by these presents do hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over, unto the ASSIGNEE, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, their entire worldwide right, title and interest in, to and under the inventions, including the above United States applications embodying the inventions and any other United States application to or from which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 or § 120, including all divisions, continuations, and continuations-in-part thereof, and all Patents of the United States which may be granted thereon and all reissues and extensions thereof; and all applications for industrial property protection, including, without limitation, all applications for patents, utility models, inventor's certificates, and designs which may hereafter be filed for the inventions in any country or countries other than the United States, together with the right to file such applications and the right to claim for the same the priority rights derived from the above United States applications under the Patent Laws of the United

States, the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, or any other international agreement or the domestic laws of the country in which any such application is filed, as may be applicable; and all forms of industrial property protection, including, without limitation, patents, utility models, inventor's certificates and designs which may be granted for the inventions in any country or countries foreign to the United States and all extensions, renewals and reissues thereof, the same to be held and enjoyed by the ASSIGNEE, for its own use and behalf and the use and behalf of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, to the full end of the term or terms for which Letters Patent or Patents may be granted as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the ASSIGNORS had this sale and assignment not been made, including the right to sue for, settle and release all past, present and future infringement of the foregoing, including the right to license and to collect and receive damages, royalties, injunctive relief, and/or settlements for infringement thereof;

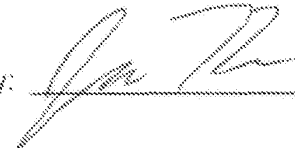
And the ASSIGNORS hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States, and any Official of any country or countries foreign to the United States, whose duty it is to issue patents or other evidence or forms of industrial property protection on applications as aforesaid, to issue the same to the ASSIGNEE, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, in accordance with the terms of this instrument;

And the ASSIGNORS hereby covenant and agree that they have the full right to convey the entire interest herein assigned, and that they have not executed, and will not execute, any agreement in conflict herewith;

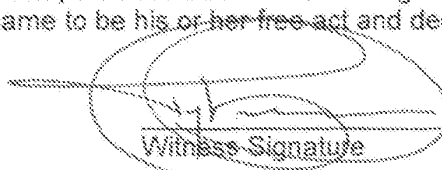
And the ASSIGNORS hereby further covenant and agree that they will communicate to the ASSIGNEE, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, any facts known to them respecting said inventions, testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuing, reissue and foreign applications, make all rightful oaths, and generally do everything possible to aid the ASSIGNEE or, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said inventions in all countries;

In witness whereof, the inventors have affixed their signatures as ASSIGNORS.

[SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

Dated: 9/27/21 By: 
Printed Name: Jordan Kuehn

On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Jordan Kuehn,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.


Witness Signature
Walter H. Albeck
Witness Name

=====

Dated: _____ By: _____
Printed Name: Austin Johnson

On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Austin Johnson,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.

Witness Signature

Witness Name

Dated: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: Jordan Kuehn

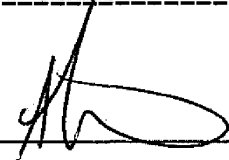
On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Jordan Kuehn,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.

Witness Signature

Witness Name

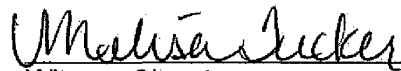
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Dated: 8/4/21

By: 

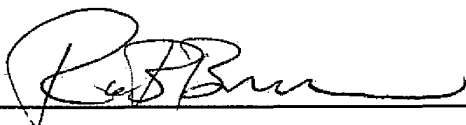
Printed Name: Austin Johnson

On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Austin Johnson,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.


Witness Signature

Melisa Tucker
Witness Name

Dated: 9/28/2021

By: 

Printed Name: Ronnie B. Beason

On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Ronnie B. Beason,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.


Witness Signature

Melisa Tucker
Witness Name

=====

Dated: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: Nicholas J. Cannon

On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Nicholas J. Cannon,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.

Witness Signature

Witness Name

Dated: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: Ronnie B. Beason

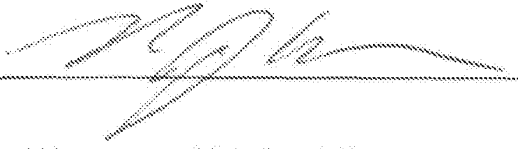
On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Ronnie B. Beason,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.

Witness Signature

Witness Name

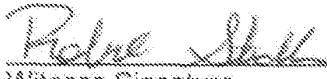
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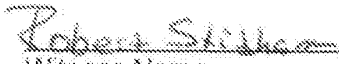
Dated: 09/30/2021

By: 

Printed Name: Nicholas J. Cannon

On the same date as signed above, before me appeared Nicholas J. Cannon,
to me known and known to me to be the person of that name, who signed the foregoing
instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his or her free act and deed.


Witness Signature


Witness Name

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:				
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:		HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Jordan Kuehn		
Filer:		Zachary Arnold Halbur/Paula Sandu		
Attorney Docket Number:		57959.12US02		
Filed as Small Entity				
Filing Fees for Track I Prioritized Examination - Nonprovisional Application under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
UTILITY FILING FEE (ELECTRONIC FILING)	4011	1	80	80
UTILITY SEARCH FEE	2111	1	350	350
UTILITY EXAMINATION FEE	2311	1	400	400
REQUEST FOR PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION	2817	1	2100	2100
Pages:				
Claims:				
CLAIMS IN EXCESS OF 20	2202	10	50	500
Miscellaneous-Filing:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
PUBL. FEE- EARLY, VOLUNTARY, OR NORMAL	1504	1	0	0
PROCESSING FEE, EXCEPT PROV. APPLS.	2830	1	70	70
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				3500

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	46314693
Application Number:	17878493
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6541
Title of Invention:	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Jordan Kuehn
Customer Number:	27683
Filer:	Zachary Arnold Halbur/Paula Sandu
Filer Authorized By:	Zachary Arnold Halbur
Attorney Docket Number:	57959.12US02
Receipt Date:	01-AUG-2022
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	16:13:34
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	CARD
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$3500
RAM confirmation Number	E202281G15013018
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:	

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Track One Request	5795912US02_TrackOneRequest.pdf	114470	no	2
			95cbdbdcedc7a79e8ef114520fde4849a6cf3ba80		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2		5795912US02_CONApplication.pdf	156651	yes	41
			232b38cb06775ae8fa7d7d3705570a88ffbc510a		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Specification		1	34	
	Claims		35	40	
	Abstract		41	41	
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Drawings-only black and white line drawings	5795912US02_Drawings.pdf	3223845	no	50
			11d0a7b987469abb79f1698509c981ee0972fc89		
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Oath or Declaration filed	5795912US02_Declarations.pdf	340165	no	4
			5023ee0689659d5a9a5dbe41a4a397ab24ba4c37		
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Power of Attorney	5795912US02_POA.pdf	1187214	no	1
			aff702475ce31c9396b4f13eeff3b4b9bedaf092		

Warnings:					
Information:					
6	Application Data Sheet	5795912US02_Application_Data_Sheet.pdf	2226969	no	11
			af183bde3566a1292537c4b1295e242e81214a4a		
Warnings:					
Information:					
7	Assignee showing of ownership per 37 CFR 3.73	5795912US02_Statement_Under_373c.pdf	983662	no	9
			6c3d328726b11339841fcff8d514c6f3b386b36b		
Warnings:					
Information:					
8	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	53046	no	2
			40a05509bf7cb6a6713f46a0ca27b3fa55198dbb		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			8286022		
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.					

**CERTIFICATION AND REQUEST FOR PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.102(e)** (Page 1 of 1)

First Named Inventor:	Jordan Kuehn	Nonprovisional Application Number (if known):	
Title of Invention:	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME		

APPLICANT HEREBY CERTIFIES THE FOLLOWING AND REQUESTS PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION FOR THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED APPLICATION.

1. The processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i)(1) and the prioritized examination fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) have been filed with the request. The publication fee requirement is met because that fee, set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(d), is currently \$0. The basic filing fee, search fee, and examination fee are filed with the request or have been already been paid. I understand that any required excess claims fees or application size fee must be paid for the application.
2. I understand that the application may not contain, or be amended to contain, more than four independent claims, more than thirty total claims, or any multiple dependent claims, and that any request for an extension of time will cause an outstanding Track I request to be dismissed.
3. The applicable box is checked below:
 - I. ☒ **Original Application (Track One) - Prioritized Examination under § 1.102(e)(1)**
 - i. (a) The application is an original nonprovisional utility application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the utility application via EFS-Web.
---OR---
 - (b) The application is an original nonprovisional plant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). This certification and request is being filed with the plant application in paper.
 - ii. An executed inventor's oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.63 or 37 CFR 1.64 for each inventor, or the application data sheet meeting the conditions specified in 37 CFR 1.53(f)(3)(i) is filed with the application.
 - II. ☐ **Request for Continued Examination - Prioritized Examination under § 1.102(e)(2)**
 - i. A request for continued examination has been filed with, or prior to, this form.
 - ii. If the application is a utility application, this certification and request is being filed via EFS-Web.
 - iii. The application is an original nonprovisional utility application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), or is a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 - iv. This certification and request is being filed prior to the mailing of a first Office action responsive to the request for continued examination.
 - v. No prior request for continued examination has been granted prioritized examination status under 37 CFR 1.102(e)(2).

Signature <u>/Zachary A. Halbur/</u>	Date <u>August 1, 2022</u>
Name (Print/Typed) <u>Zachary A. Halbur</u>	Practitioner Registration Number <u>68,500</u>
Note: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for signature requirements and certifications. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required.*	
☒ *Total of <u>ONE</u> forms are submitted.	

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

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3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 17/388,716 (the “716 Application”), filed July 29, 2021, which claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 63/189,663, filed May 17, 2021, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0002] The ‘716 Application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. Patent Application No. 17/319,854 (the “854 Application”), filed May 13, 2021, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0003] The ‘854 Application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. Patent Application No. 16/855,749 (the “749 Application”), filed April 22, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ‘749 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/836,761, filed April 22, 2019, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0004] The ‘749 Application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. Patent Application No. 16/248,648 (the “648 Application”), filed January 15, 2019, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,724,682, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ‘648 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Application No. 62/617,443, filed January 15, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0005] The ‘749 Application is also a CIP of U.S. Patent Application No. 16/803,156 (the “156 Application”), filed February 27, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ‘156 Application is a CIP of U.S. Patent Application No. 16/248,633 (the “633 Application”), filed January 15, 2019, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,584,552, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The ‘633 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/617,438 (the “438 Application”), filed January 15, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0006] The '156 Application is also a CIP of U.S. Patent Application No. 16/436,623 (the "623 Application"), filed June 10, 2019, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The '623 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/755,170, filed November 2, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0007] The '156 Application is also a CIP of U.S. Patent Application No. 16/100,741 (the "741 Application"), filed August 10, 2018, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,689,938, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The '741 Application claims the benefit of the filing date of, and priority to, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/638,688, filed March 5, 2018, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/638,681, filed March 5, 2018, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/637,220, filed March 1, 2018, U.S. Patent Application No. 62/637,215, filed March 1, 2018, and U.S. Patent Application No. 62/598,914, filed December 14, 2017, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0008] The '749 Application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 16/801,911, filed February 26, 2020, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0009] The '716 Application is also related to U.S. Patent Application No. 17/360,336, filed June 28, 2021, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Background

[0010] This application relates generally to oil and gas hydraulic fracturing operations and, more particularly, to a hydraulic fracturing plan executable by a hydraulic fracturing system to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and gas wells.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0011] Figure 1A is a diagrammatic illustration of a hydraulic fracturing system operably to execute a hydraulic fracturing plan to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and gas wells, according to one or more embodiments.

[0012] Figure 1B is a flow diagram illustrating a method for hydraulically fracturing a plurality of wells by executing a hydraulic fracturing plan using the hydraulic fracturing system of Figure 1A, according to one or more embodiments.

[0013] Figure 2A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of a first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which first step is or includes equalizing a lubricator of a frac leg associated with a first well, and opening the first well, according to one or more embodiments.

[0014] Figure 2B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0015] Figure 2C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0016] Figure 2D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0017] Figure 2E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0018] Figure 2F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0019] Figure 2G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0020] Figure 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the various sub-steps, illustrated schematically in Figures 2A and 2G, of the first step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0021] Figure 4 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a second step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which second step is or includes perforating a stage of the first well using a wireline perforating system, according to one or more embodiments.

[0022] Figure 5A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the second step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0023] Figure 5B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the second step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0024] Figure 5C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the second step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0025] Figure 6 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which third step is or includes closing the first well using a valve apparatus, and draining a lubricator, according to one or more embodiments.

[0026] Figure 7A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0027] Figure 7B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0028] Figure 7C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0029] Figure 7D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0030] Figure 7E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0031] Figure 7F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0032] Figure 7G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0033] Figure 7H schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0034] Figure 7I schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the third step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0035]

[0036] Figure 8 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which fourth step is or includes isolating a stage of a second well in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation, according to one or more embodiments.

[0037] Figure 9A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0038] Figure 9B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0039] Figure 9C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0040] Figure 9D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0041] Figure 9E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0042] Figure 9F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0043] Figure 9G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the fourth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0044]

[0045] Figure 10 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a fifth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which fifth step is or includes detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of a third well has ended, according to one or more embodiments.

[0046] Figure 11 schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the fifth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0047] Figure 12 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a sixth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which sixth step is or includes determining whether to permit a regular swap or a continuous pumping swap (or "CP swap"), according to one or more embodiments.

[0048] Figure 13 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a seventh step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which seventh step is or includes the regular swap from hydraulically fracturing the third well to hydraulically fracturing the second well, according to one or more embodiments.

[0049] Figure 14A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the seventh step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0050] Figure 14B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the seventh step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0051] Figure 15 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of an eighth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which eighth step is or includes the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing the third well to hydraulically fracturing the second well, according to one or more embodiments.

[0052] Figure 16A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the eighth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0053] Figure 16B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the eighth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0054] Figure 16C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the eighth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0055] Figure 16D is a chart illustrating execution of one or more of the various sub-steps, schematically illustrated in Figures 16A through 16C, of the eighth step of the method illustrated in Figures 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0056] Figure 16E is another chart illustrating execution of one or more of the various sub-steps, schematically illustrated in Figures 16A through 16C, of the eighth step of the method illustrated in Figures 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0057] Figure 17 is a flow diagram illustrating various sub-steps of a ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, which ninth step is or includes latching, filling, and pressure testing a frac leg associated with a fourth well in preparation for perforating a stage of the fourth well using the wireline perforating system, according to one or more embodiments.

[0058] Figure 18A schematically illustrates execution of one or more sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0059] Figure 18B schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0060] Figure 18C schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0061] Figure 18D schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0062] Figure 18E schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0063] Figure 18F schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0064] Figure 18G schematically illustrates execution of one or more additional sub-step(s) of the ninth step of the method illustrated in Figure 1B, according to one or more embodiments.

[0065] Figure 19A is a flow diagram illustrating a portion of another method for fracturing wells using the fracturing system of Figure 1A, which another method includes swapping from simultaneously fracturing first and second wells to simultaneously fracturing third and fourth wells, according to one or more embodiments.

[0066] Figure 19B is a flow diagram illustrating another portion of the another method of Figure 20A, according to one or more embodiments.

[0067] Figure 20 is a diagrammatic illustration of a computing node for implementing one or more embodiments of the present disclosure.

Detailed Description

[0068] Referring to Figure 1A, in an embodiment, a hydraulic fracturing system 100 for executing a hydraulic fracturing plan to hydraulically fracture wells 105A through 105C+n is illustrated, which hydraulic fracturing system 100 includes: a blender 110 adapted to mix fluid from a fluid source 115 with sand from a sand source 120 to produce hydraulic fracturing fluid; a suction manifold 125 adapted to receive the hydraulic fracturing fluid

from the blender 110; a discharge manifold 130; a plurality of swap stations 135, each adapted to communicate the hydraulic fracturing fluid from the suction manifold 125 to a corresponding pump truck 140, and, after pressurization by the corresponding pump truck 140, to communicate the pressurized hydraulic fracturing fluid from the corresponding pump truck 140 to the discharge manifold 130; and a zipper manifold 145 adapted to communicate the pressurized hydraulic fracturing fluid from the discharge manifold 130 to a plurality of hydraulic fracturing legs (or “frac legs”) 150A through 150C+n, each of which is adapted to communicate the pressurized hydraulic fracturing fluid from the zipper manifold 145 to a corresponding one of the wells 105A through 105C+n. In one or more embodiments, each of the swap stations 135 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 16/436,189, filed June 10, 2019, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0386359, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0069] A grease system 155 is adapted to communicate lubricating grease to various components of the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, including, for example, pump-down valves 160a-b, master valves 165a-b, and zipper valves 170a-b associated with each of the frac legs 150A through 150C+n (which components are shown in Figures 2A-G, 5A-C, 7A-I, 9A-G, 11, 14A-B, 16A-C, and 18A-G). In one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 16/248,648, filed January 15, 2019 bearing Attorney Docket No. 57959.3US01, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,724,682, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 16/938,341, filed July 24, 2020 bearing Attorney Docket No. 57959.3US02, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0355322, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in the '749 Application, filed April 22, 2020 bearing Attorney Docket No. 57959.5US01, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0248529, the entire disclosure of which is hereby

incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the grease system 155 is or includes one or more components shown and described in the '854 Application, filed May 13, 2021 bearing Attorney Docket No. 57959.11US01, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0070] A controller 156 is adapted to control the grease system 155, the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, or both. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 is or includes a non-transitory computer readable medium and one or more processors adapted to execute instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 is located on-site at the well site. Alternatively, the controller 156 may be located remotely from the well site. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 includes a plurality of controllers. In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 includes a plurality of controllers, with one or more controllers located on-site at the well site and/or one or more other controllers located remotely from the well site.

[0071] Referring to Figure 1B, in an embodiment, a method 175 for hydraulically fracturing the wells 105A through 105C+n by executing a hydraulic fracturing plan using the hydraulic fracturing system 100 of Figure 1A is illustrated. The method 175 generally includes: at step(s) 176a, perforating a stage of each well using, for example, a wireline perforating system 177; at step(s) 176b, isolating the perforated stage of each well using an object dropped, for example, from a launcher 178 of the wireline perforating system 177; and, at step(s) 176c, hydraulically fracturing the isolated/perforated stage of each well. More particularly, as will be described in further detail below, the method 175 includes: at a step 225, equalizing a lubricator 220 of the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A, and opening the well 105A; at a step 230, perforating a stage of the well 105A using the wireline perforating system 177; at a step 235, closing the well 105A using the valve apparatus 210 and draining the lubricator 220; at a step 238a, queuing the well 105A (as indicated at queue position n_2) in a frac queue 239 in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation; at a step 238b, dequeuing the well 105B (as indicated at queue position n_1+1) from the frac queue 239 in preparation for the hydraulic fracturing

operation; at a step 240, isolating a stage of the well 105B in preparation for the hydraulic fracturing operation; at a step 245, detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of the well 105D has ended; at a step 250, determining whether to permit a regular swap or a CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at a step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B; at a step 255, executing the regular swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B, or, at a step 260, executing the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B; at the step 262, hydraulically fracturing the well 105B; optionally, at a step 263a, queuing the well 105D (as indicated at queue position n_1) in a wireline queue 264 in preparation for perforating a next stage of the well 105D; optionally, at a step 238b, dequeuing the well 105E (as indicated at queue position 1) from the wireline queue 264 in preparation for perforating a next stage of the well 105E; and, at a step 265, latching, filling, and pressure testing the frac leg 150E associated with the well 105E.

[0072] In one or more embodiments, the controller 156 is adapted to control the grease system 155, the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, or both, in order to execute the method 175 described herein. In one or more embodiments, the frac queue 239 and the wireline queue 264 are stored on a non-transitory computer readable medium that includes or is part of, for example, the controller 156. In one or more embodiments, the frac queue 239 is or includes a list of data items, commands, etc., stored on the computer readable medium so as to be retrievable by one or more processors in a definite order (but not necessarily in the order stored), and the frac queue 239 is associated with the wells 105A through 105C+n, as shown in Figure 1B. In addition, or instead, the frac queue 239 can be at least partially populated by an external source, such as, for example, the frac operator. Likewise, in one or more embodiments, the wireline queue 264 is or includes a list of data items, commands, etc., stored on the computer readable medium so as to be retrievable by one or more processors in a definite order (but not necessarily in the order stored), and the wireline queue 264 is associated with the wells 105A through 105C+n, as shown in Figure 1B. In addition, or instead, the wireline queue 264 can be at least partially populated by an external source, such as, for example, the wireline operator.

[0073] Referring to Figures 2A through 2G, in an embodiment, the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A is illustrated, which frac leg 150A includes: a wellhead including the master valves 165a-b (such as, for example, gate valves) operably coupled to, and adapted to be in fluid communication with, the well 105A, each of the master valves 165a-b including associated grease ports (or “GPs”) 185a-b; the pump-down valves 160a-b (such as, for example, gate valves) operably coupled to, and adapted to communicate fluid between, a pump-down truck 190 and the well 105A, via the master valves 165a-b, each of the pump-down valves 160a-b including an associated GP 195; and the zipper valves 170a-b (such as, for example, gate valves) operably coupled to, and adapted to communicate fluid between, the zipper manifold 145 and the well 105A, via the master valves 165a-b, each of the zipper valves 170a-b including associated GPs 200a-b. In one or more embodiments, one or both of the zipper valves 170a-b of each of the frac legs 150A through 150C+n include(s), or is/are part of, the zipper manifold 145. In one or more embodiments, as in Figures 2A through 2G, the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A also includes a flow block 205 to which the pump-down valves 160a-b and the zipper valves 170a-b are operably coupled.

[0074] The frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A further includes a valve apparatus 210 via which both the wireline perforating system 177 and the object launched from, for example, the launcher 178, are permitted entry to the well 105A. The valve apparatus 210 includes: a containment area 215a (labeled “WELL”) adapted to be in fluid communication with the well 105A via the master valves 165a-b; a containment area 215b (labeled “LUB”) adapted to be in fluid communication with the lubricator 220 of the wireline perforating system 177; and a containment area 215c (labeled “LL”) adapted to be in fluid communication with the containment area 215a via a flow control device 221a (e.g., a flapper-type flow control device), and adapted to be in fluid communication with the containment area 215b via a flow control device 221b (e.g., a flapper-type flow control device).

[0075] An equalization (“EQ”) valve 222a is connected between the containment areas 215a and 215c, which EQ valve 222a is openable to permit pressure equalization between the containment areas 215a and 215c when the flow control device 221a is

closed. Likewise, an equalization valve 222b is connected between the containment areas 215b and 215c, which EQ valve 222b is openable to permit pressure equalization between the containment areas 215b and 215c when the flow control device 221b is closed. Additionally, an EQ valve 222c is connected between the lubricator 220 and atmosphere (labeled "ATM"), which EQ valve 222c permits pressure equalization between the lubricator 220 and atmosphere. A drain 223 is connected between a latch 234 (via which the lubricator 220 is detachably couplable to the valve apparatus 210) and a pump station 224a, via which drain 223 fluid is communicable to and/or from the lubricator 220, using, for example, an auto-fill/auto-drain pump of the pump station 224a, when the lubricator 220 is connected to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234. Finally, when the lubricator 220 is connected to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234, fluid can also be communicated to the lubricator 220 (via, for example, the containment area 215c and the EQ valve 222b) using one or more boost pump(s) 224b in order to increase a fluid pressure in the lubricator 220, aiding in pressure equalization between the lubricator 220 and the associated wellhead. For example, the boost pump(s) 224b may include: a first boost pump capable of pumping at relatively higher volumes and relatively lower pressures; and a second boost pump capable of pumping at relatively lower volumes and relatively higher pressures. The first and second boost pumps are used in combination to achieve combined pumping at relatively higher volumes and relatively higher pressures. In addition, or instead, a third boost pump capable of pumping at relatively higher volumes and relatively higher pressures may be used. Moreover, although shown as being connected to, and in fluid communication with, the containment area 215c, one or more of the boost pump(s) 224b may instead be, include, or be part of the pump station 224a.

[0076] In one or more embodiments, the valve apparatus 210 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 15/487,785, filed April 14, 2017, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,662,740, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the valve apparatus 210 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 16/721,203, filed December 19, 2019, now

published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0123876, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0077] In one or more embodiments, the launcher 178 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 16/248,633, filed January 15, 2019 bearing Attorney Docket No. 57959.4US01, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,584,552, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the launcher 178 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 16/801,911, filed February 26, 2020 bearing Attorney Docket No. 57959.4US02, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0190933, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the launcher 178 is or includes one or more components shown and described in U.S. Patent Application No. 16/803,156, filed February 27, 2020 bearing Attorney Docket No. 57959.8US01, now published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2020/0190934, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0078] In one or more embodiments, the frac legs 150B through 150C+n associated with each of the wells 105B through 105C+n, respectively, are substantially identical to the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A; therefore, the frac legs 150B through 150C+n associated with each of the wells 105B through 105C+n will not be described in further detail. Accordingly, each of the frac legs 150B through 150C+n associated with the wells 105B through 105C+n includes features/components substantially identical to corresponding features/components of the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A, which substantially identical features/components are given the same reference numerals and will also not be described in further detail.

[0079] Referring to Figure 3, with continuing reference to Figures 2A through 2G, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 226a-h of the step 225 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 225 is or includes equalizing the lubricator 220 of the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A, and opening the well 105A. In one or more embodiments, the lubricator 220 is or includes one or more components shown and

described in the '749 Application. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the lubricator 220 is or includes one or more components shown and described in the '854 Application.

[0080] At the sub-step 226a, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned on to increase a fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 of the frac leg 150A, thereby aiding in pressure equalization between said lubricator 220 and the well 105A, as shown in Figures 2A and 3 (indicated by arrow 232a in Figure 2A). As shown in Figure 1B, the step 265 of latching, filling, and pressure testing the frac leg 150A associated with the well 105A is executed on the frac leg 150A just prior to the execution of the sub-step 226a on the frac leg 150A. The step 265 will be described in further detail below as executed on the frac leg 150E; however, the description below also applies to the execution of the step 265 on the frac leg 150A. As a result, in one or more embodiments, just prior to execution of the sub-step 226a on the frac leg 150A: the EQ valve 222c is closed; the drain 223 is closed; the lubricator 220 extends within, and is latched to, the latch 234; the flow control device 221b is closed; the EQ valve 222b is open; the flow control device 221a is closed; the EQ valve 222a is closed; the pump-down valves 160a-b closed, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 195; the zipper valves 170a-b are closed, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 200a-b; and the master valves 165a-b are open, and grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 185a-b. The communication of grease from the grease system 155 to the corresponding GPs 185a-b is not indicated by arrows in Figure 2A but is instead indicated by a lack of shading of the GPs 185a-b as shown in Figure 2A; the same lack of shading indication applies to the GPs 185a-b as shown in Figures 2B-G, 5A-C, 7A-I, 9A-G, 11, 14A-B, 16A-C, and 18A-G.

[0081] At the sub-step 226b, respective fluid pressures within the containment areas 215a and 215c are compared to determine whether the fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 of the frac leg 150A has been equalized to within a threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105A. If it is determined that the fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 of the frac leg 150A has not been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105A, the EQ valve 222a is opened at the sub-step 226c to further

encourage such pressure equalization between said lubricator 220 and the well 105A, as shown in Figures 2B and 3. Alternatively, the order in which the sub-steps 226a and 226c are executed may be reversed, or one of the sub-steps 226a and 226c may be omitted altogether.

[0082] At the sub-step 226d, once it is determined that the fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 of the frac leg 150A has been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105A, the flow control device 221a is opened, as shown in Figures 2C and 3. At the sub-step 226e, the EQ valve 222a is closed, as shown in Figures 2D and 3. However, in those embodiments in which the sub-step 226c of opening the EQ valve 222a is omitted, the sub-step 226e of closing the EQ valve 222a is also omitted. Additionally, the sub-step 226e may be executed to close the EQ valve 222a at any time before, during, or after, execution of the sub-steps 226d, 226f, or 226g. At the sub-step 226f, the flow control device 221b is opened, as shown in Figures 2E and 3. At the sub-step 226g, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned off, as shown in Figures 2F and 3. At the sub-step 226h, the EQ valve 222b is closed, as shown in Figures 2G and 3. Once the sub-steps 226a-h are executed, the well 105A is ready for execution of the step 230, namely perforating a stage of the well 105A using the wireline perforating system 177, as will be described in detail below in connection with Figures 4 and 5A through 5C.

[0083] Referring to Figures 4 and 5A through 5C, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 231a-h of the step 230 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 230 is or includes perforating a stage of the well 105A using the wireline perforating system 177. In one or more embodiments, the wireline perforating system 177 is or includes the pump-down truck 190, a wireline truck 233, the lubricator 220, the launcher 178, the latch 234 (via which the lubricator 220 is detachably couplable to the valve apparatus 210), or any combination thereof. In addition, or instead, the wireline perforating system 177 may be or include one or more components shown and described in the '749 Application. In addition, or instead, in one or more embodiments, the wireline perforating system 177 may be or include one or more components shown and described in the '854 Application.

[0084] At the sub-step 231a, a plug and perforating gun(s) are deployed from the lubricator 220, as shown in Figures 4 and 5A (indicated by arrow 232b in Figure 5A). At the sub-step 231b, the pump-down valves 160a-b are opened, as shown in Figures 4 and 5B. At the sub-step 231c, grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 195 of the pump-down valves 160a-b, respectively, as shown in Figures 4 and 5B (indicated by arrows 232c in Figure 5B). At the sub-step 231d, the plug and perforating gun(s) are pumped down into the well 105A using the pump-down truck 190, as shown in Figures 4 and 5B (indicated by arrows 232d and 232e in Figure 5B). At the sub-step 231e, the pump-down valves 160a-b are closed, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 195, as shown in Figures 4 and 5C. Additionally, the sub-step 231e may be executed to close the pump-down valves 160a-b at any time before, during, or after, execution of the sub-steps 231f, 231g, or 231h. At the sub-step 231f, the plug is set in the well 105A, as shown in Figure 4. At the sub-step 231g, the perforating gun(s) are detonated in the well 105A, as shown in Figure 4. Finally, at the sub-step 231h, the spent perforating gun(s) are retrieved from the well 105A, as shown in Figures 4 and 5C (indicated by arrows 232f and 232g in Figure 5C). Once the sub-steps 231a-h are executed, the well 105A is ready for execution of the step 235, namely closing the well 105A using the valve apparatus 210 and draining the lubricator 220, as will be described in detail below in connection with Figures 6 and 7A through 7I.

[0085] Referring to Figures 6 and 7A through 7I, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 236a-n of the step 235 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 235 is or includes closing the well 105A using the valve apparatus 210 and draining the lubricator 220. At the sub-step 236a, bump up of the retrieved spent perforating gun(s) within the lubricator 220 is determined and/or confirmed. The sub-step 236a can be achieved in several ways, including, but not limited to: prompting the wireline operation for bump up; checking with the wireline operator to determine whether bump up has occurred; detecting bump up using a switch (e.g., a proximity switch) and/or another sensor (e.g., an accelerometer, a wireline speed sensor, a wireline tension sensor, a wireline length sensor, a wireline direction sensor, the like, or any combination

thereof) associated with the lubricator 220; receiving verbal confirmation that bump up has occurred; or any combination thereof.

[0086] At the sub-step 236b, once the bump up of the retrieved spent perforating gun(s) within the lubricator 220 is determined and/or confirmed, the flow control device 221b is closed, as shown in Figures 6 and 7A. At the sub-step 236c, the flow control device 221a is closed, as shown in Figures 6 and 7B. At the sub-step 236d, the EQ valve 222c is opened, as shown in Figures 6 and 7C, to bleed down a fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 (indicated by arrow 232g in Figure 7C). At the sub-step 236e, the EQ valve 222b is opened, as shown in Figures 6 and 7D. At the sub-step 236f, the lubricator 220 is checked to determine whether the fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 has dropped (or “bled down”) to below a threshold value (e.g., a bleed PSI limit), as shown in Figure 6. At the sub-step 236g, once it has been determined that the fluid pressure in the lubricator 220 has dropped to below the threshold value, the EQ valve 222b is closed, as shown in Figures 6 and 7E.

[0087] At the sub-step 236h, the drain 223 is opened, as shown in Figures 6 and 7F. At the sub-step 236i, the auto-drain pump of the pump station 224a is turned on to drain fluid from the lubricator 220 via the drain 223, as shown in Figures 6 and 7F (indicated by arrow 232h in Figure 7F). At the sub-step 236j, the auto-drain pump is allowed to finish auto-draining the lubricator 220 before the drain 223 is closed, as shown in Figures 6 and 7G. At the sub-step 236k, the latch 234 is unlatched, as shown in Figures 6 and 7G. At the sub-step 236l, the lubricator 220 is removed, as shown in Figures 6 and 7H (indicated by arrow 232i in Figure 7H). At the sub-step 236m, the EQ valve 222c is closed, as shown in Figure 7I. Finally, at the sub-step 236n, an object drop (e.g., from the launcher 178) and/or a pressure test is/are enabled, as shown in Figure 6. More particularly, once the sub-steps 236a-n are executed, the well 105A is ready for execution of the step 240, namely isolating a stage of the well 105A in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation. The step 240 will be described in further detail below (in connection with Figures 8 and 9A through 9G) as executed on the frac leg 150B to isolate a stage of the well 105B; however, the description below also applies to the execution of the step 240 on the frac leg 150A to isolate a stage of the well 105A.

[0088] Referring to Figures 8 and 9A through 9G, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 241a-o of the step 240 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 240 is or includes isolating a stage of the well 105B in preparation for a hydraulic fracturing operation. In one or more embodiments, the step 240 that is or includes isolating the stage of the well 105B includes or is part of a hydraulic fracturing operation. At the sub-step 241a, the EQ valve 222b is opened to facilitate pressure equalization between the containment areas 215b and 215c, as shown in Figures 8 and 9A. At the sub-step 241b, an object is dropped from the launcher 178, as shown in Figures 8 and 9A. At the sub-step 241c, respective fluid pressures within the containment areas 215b and 215c are checked to determine whether the containment areas 215b and 215c have been pressure equalized to within a threshold amount, as shown in Figure 8. At the sub-step 241d, once it is determined that the containment areas 215b and 215c have been pressure equalized to within the threshold amount, the flow control device 221b is opened, as shown in Figures 8 and 9B. At the sub-step 241e, the object passes into the containment area 215c, as shown in Figures 8 and 9C. At the sub-step 241f, the flow control device 221b is closed, as shown in Figures 8 and 9C. At the sub-step 241g, the EQ valve 222b is closed, as shown in Figures 8 and 9D.

[0089] At the sub-step 241h, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned on to increase a fluid pressure in the containment area 215c, thereby aiding in pressure equalization between the containment areas 215a and 215c, as shown in Figures 8 and 9D (indicated by arrow 232j in Figure 9D). At the sub-step 241i, respective fluid pressures within the containment areas 215a and 215c are compared to determine whether the fluid pressure in the containment area 215c has been equalized to within a threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105B. If it is determined that the fluid pressure in the containment area 215c has not been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105B, the EQ valve 222a is opened at the sub-step 241j to further encourage such pressure equalization between said containment area 215c and the well 105B, as shown in Figures 8 and 9E. Alternatively, the order in which the sub-steps 241h and 241j are executed may be reversed, or one of the sub-steps 241h and 241j may be omitted altogether.

[0090] At the sub-step 241k, once it is determined that the fluid pressure in the containment area 215c has been equalized to within the threshold amount of the fluid pressure in the well 105B, the flow control device 221a is opened, as shown in Figures 8 and 9F. At the sub-step 241l, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned off, as shown in Figures 8 and 9F. At the sub-step 241m, the EQ valve 222a is closed, as shown in Figures 8 and 9F. However, in those embodiments in which the sub-step 241j of opening the EQ valve 222a is omitted, the sub-step 241m of closing the EQ valve 222a is also omitted. Additionally, the sub-step 241m may be executed to close the EQ valve 222a at any time before, during, or after, execution of the sub-steps 241k or 241l. At the sub-step 241n, the object is permitted passage to the well 105B, as shown in Figures 8 and 9G. Finally, at the sub-step 241o, the flow control device 221a is closed, as shown in Figures 8 and 9G. Once the sub-steps 241a-o are executed, the well 105B is ready for execution of the step 245, namely detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of the well 105D has ended, as will be described in detail below in connection with Figures 10 and 11.

[0091] Referring to Figures 10 and 11, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 246a-c of the step 245 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 245 is or includes detecting or otherwise determining that a fracturing stage of the well 105D has ended. At the sub-step 246a, the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) is monitored for an external signal indicating the fracturing stage has ended, as shown in Figure 10. At the sub-step 246b, the n_1 well's frac data is monitored to determine whether the fracturing stage has ended, as shown in Figure 10. Finally, at the sub-step 246c, the zipper valves 170a-b associated with the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B) are dequeued and compared against the frac order (if available). During execution of the sub-steps 246a-c: grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b of the zipper valves 170a-b, respectively, as shown in Figure 11 (indicated by arrows 232k in Figure 5B); and hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the well 105D, as shown in Figure 11 (indicated by arrows 232l and 232m in Figure 11).

[0092] Referring to Figure 12, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 251a-c of the step 250 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 250 is or includes determining whether to permit a regular swap or a CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at a step 262) the well 105D to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the well 105B, by, for example: checking an idle rate of the hydraulic fracturing system 100 at the sub-step 251a; and detecting or otherwise determining that an idle rate of the hydraulic fracturing system 100 is below an upper threshold and above a lower threshold at the sub-step 251b, or, at the sub-step 251c, detecting or otherwise determining that the idle rate of the hydraulic fracturing system 100 is below the lower threshold. More particularly, as shown in Figure 12: at the sub-step 251a, a frac rate of the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) is checked; and, at the sub-step 251b, if the frac rate of the n_1 well is below the upper threshold rate (e.g., 10 bbl) and above the lower threshold rate (e.g., 0 bbl) for a threshold amount of time (e.g., 10s), a CP swap from hydraulically fracturing the n_1 well to hydraulically fracturing the n_1+1 well is permitted at step 260, but, at the sub-step 251c, if the frac rate of the n_1 well is below the lower threshold rate for a threshold amount of time, only a regular swap from hydraulically fracturing the n_1 well to hydraulically fracturing the n_1+1 well is permitted at step 255.

[0093] Referring to Figures 13 and 14A through 14B, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 256a-c of the step 255 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 255 is or includes executing the regular swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B). At the sub-step 256a, the n_1 well's (e.g., well 105D) zipper valves 170a-b are closed, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 200a-b, as shown in Figures 13 and 14A. At the sub-step 256b, a signal to advance is received, as shown in Figure 13. For example, a user input such as a screen click may be received at the sub-step 256b. In addition, or instead, an external signal, such as an external signal from the frac operator, may be received at the sub-step 256b. In addition, or instead, a signal to advance may be generated by detecting or otherwise determining that pressure equalization has been achieved to within a threshold amount between the hydraulic fracturing pressure in the

zipper manifold 145 and the fluid pressure in the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B) for a threshold amount of time. At the sub-step 256c, the n_1+1 well's zipper valves 170a-b are opened, as shown in Figures 13 and 14B, so that hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the n_1+1 well (indicated by arrows 232n and 232o in Figures 14B), and grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b (indicated by arrow 232p in Figure 14B).

[0094] Referring to Figures 15 and 16A through 16E, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 261a-c of the step 260 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 260 is or includes executing the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B). At the sub-step 261a, the n_1+1 well's (e.g., well 105B) zipper valves 170a-b are opened, as shown in Figures 15 and 16A, hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the n_1+1 well (indicated by arrows 232n and 232o in Figure 16A), and grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b (indicated by arrow 232p in Figure 16A). At the sub-step 261b, both the n_1+1 well's (e.g., well 105B) zipper valves 170a-b and the n_1 well's (e.g., well D) zipper valves 170a-b are allowed to fully open, as shown in Figures 15, 16A and 16B, so that: hydraulic fracturing fluid is communicated from the zipper manifold 145 to the n_1 well (indicated by arrows 232l and 232m in Figure 16B) and the n_1+1 well (indicated by arrows 232n and 232o in Figure 14A); and grease from the grease system 155 is communicated to the corresponding GPs 200a-b (indicated by arrows 232p and 232k in Figure 16A and 16B, respectively). Finally, at the sub-step 261c, the n_1 well's (e.g., well 105D) zipper valves 170a-b are closed, as shown in Figures 15 and 16C, and grease from the grease system 155 is withheld from the corresponding GPs 200a-b.

[0095] As shown in Figures 16D and 16E, executing the CP swap from hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1 well (e.g., well 105D) to hydraulically fracturing (at the step 262) the n_1+1 well (e.g., well 105B) transitions the zipper valves from one well to the other, opening the second well and subsequently shutting-in the first well, all while pumping. The transition is instantaneous and the total time between stages measured at treatment pressure is less than 20 seconds (as fast as 19 seconds in some instances).

[0096] Referring to Figures 17 and 18A through 18G, in an embodiment, various sub-steps 266a-s of the step 265 of the method 175 illustrated in Figure 1B are shown in detail, which step 265 is or includes latching, filling, and pressure testing the frac leg 150E associated with the well 105E in preparation for perforating a stage of the well 105E using the wireline perforating system 177 (in a manner similar to that described above in connection with the well 105A and shown in Figures 5A through 5C). At the sub-step 266a, the lubricator 220 is stabbed into the latch 234, as shown in Figures 17 and 18A (indicated by arrow 232q in Figure 18A). At the sub-step 266b, the EQ valve 222c is closed, as shown in Figures 17 and 18B. At the sub-step 266c, the latch close relay is energized to close the latch 234, thereby connecting the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210, as shown in Figures 17 and 18C. At the sub-step 266d, a latch close proximity switch is checked to determine whether the latch 234 has successfully latched the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210. At the sub-step 266e, once it is determined that the latch 234 has successfully latched the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210, the latch close relay is de-energized, as shown in Figure 17. At the sub-step 266f, a test pressure relay is energized, as shown in Figure 17. At the sub-step 266g, a determination is made as to whether the connection of the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234 is or is not capable of holding pressure, as shown in Figure 17. At the sub-step 266h, once the determination is made that the connection of the lubricator 220 to the valve apparatus 210 via the latch 234 is capable of holding pressure, the test pressure relay is de-energized, as shown in Figure 17.

[0097] At the sub-step 266i, the drain 223 is opened, as shown in Figures 17 and 18D. At the sub-step 266j, the EQ valve 222c is opened, as shown in Figures 17 and 18E. At the sub-step 266k, the auto-fill pump of the pump station 224a is turned on to fill the lubricator 220 via the open drain 223, as shown in Figures 17 and 18E (indicated by arrow 232r in Figure 18E). At the sub-step 266l, the auto-fill pump is allowed to finish auto-filling the lubricator 220, as shown in Figure 17. At the sub-step 266m, the drain 223 is closed, as shown in Figures 17 and 18F. At the sub-step 266n, the EQ valve 222c is closed, as shown in Figures 17 and 18F. At the sub-step 266o, the EQ valve 222b is opened, as shown in Figures 17 and 18F. At the sub-step 266p, the boost pump(s) 224b

is/are turned on to increase the fluid pressure within the lubricator 220, as shown in Figures 17 and 18F (indicated by arrow 232s in Figure 18F). At the sub-step 266q, a determination is made as to whether the pressure in the lubricator 220 comes to within the pressure in the well 105E by a threshold amount (e.g., 500 PSI), as shown in Figure 17. Once the determination is made that the pressure in the lubricator 220 comes to within the pressure in the well 105E by the threshold amount, the boost pump(s) 224b is/are turned off at the sub-step 266r, and the EQ valve 222b is closed at the sub-step 266s in preparation for the next wireline swap (e.g., to the well 105E), as shown in Figures 17 and 18G.

[0098] Referring to Figures 19A and 19B, in an embodiment, a method 270 for fracturing the wells 105A through 105C+n using the hydraulic fracturing system 100 of Figure 1A is illustrated, which method 270 includes swapping from simultaneously fracturing the wells n_1 and n_3 (e.g., wells 105D and 105X) to simultaneously fracturing the wells n_1+1 and n_3+1 (e.g., wells 105B and 105V). More particularly, the method 270 includes steps substantially identical to corresponding steps of the method 175 described above, which steps are given the same reference numerals. In addition, the method 270 includes additional steps executable to simultaneously fracture the n_1 and n_3 wells (e.g., wells 105D and 105X), and to swap from simultaneously fracturing the n_1 and n_3 wells to simultaneously fracturing the n_1+1 and n_3+1 wells (e.g., wells 105B and 105V), which additional steps are given the same reference numerals, except that the suffix “'” is added. Specifically, in some instances the suffix “'” signifies that the referenced step of the method 270 is substantially identical to the corresponding step of the method 175, except that the referenced step is instead performed on a different one of the wells than that on which the corresponding step of the method 175 is performed (i.e., the steps 225', 230', 235', 238a', 239', 238b', 263a', 264', 263b', 265', and 268' fall into this category), while, in other instances, the suffix “'” signifies that the referenced step of the method 270 is substantially similar to the corresponding step of the method 175, except that the referenced step is simultaneously performed on another one of the wells other than that on which the corresponding step of the method 175 is performed (i.e., the steps 240', 245', 250', 255', 260', and 262' fall into this category). In one or more embodiments, the

controller 156 is adapted to control the grease system 155, the frac legs 150A through 150C+n, or both, in order to execute the method 270 described herein.

[0099] Referring to Figure 20, with continuing reference to Figures 1A through 19B, an illustrative node 1000 for implementing one or more of the embodiments of one or more of the controller(s) (e.g., the controller 156), element(s), apparatus, system(s) (e.g., the hydraulic fracturing system 100), method(s) (e.g., the method 175, the method 270, or both), step(s), and/or sub-step(s), or any combination thereof, described above and/or illustrated in Figures 1A through 19B is depicted. The node 1000 includes a microprocessor 1000a, an input device 1000b, a storage device 1000c, a video controller 1000d, a system memory 1000e, a display 1000f, and a communication device 1000g all interconnected by one or more buses 1000h. In one or more embodiments, the storage device 1000c may include a hard drive, CD-ROM, optical drive, any other form of storage device and/or any combination thereof. In one or more embodiments, the storage device 1000c may include, and/or be capable of receiving, a CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, or any other form of non-transitory computer-readable medium that may contain executable instructions. In one or more embodiments, the communication device 1000g may include a modem, network card, or any other device to enable the node 1000 to communicate with other node(s). In one or more embodiments, the node and the other node(s) represent a plurality of interconnected (whether by intranet or Internet) computer systems, including without limitation, personal computers, mainframes, PDAs, smartphones and cell phones.

[0100] In one or more embodiments, one or more of the embodiments described above and/or illustrated in Figures 1A through 19B include at least the node 1000 and/or components thereof, and/or one or more nodes that are substantially similar to the node 1000 and/or components thereof. In one or more embodiments, one or more of the above-described components of the node 1000 and/or the embodiments described above and/or illustrated in Figures 1A through 19B include respective pluralities of same components.

[0101] In one or more embodiments, one or more of the embodiments described above and/or illustrated in Figures 1A through 19B include a computer program that includes a

plurality of instructions, data, and/or any combination thereof; an application written in, for example, Arena, HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), JavaScript, Extensible Markup Language (XML), asynchronous JavaScript and XML (Ajax), and/or any combination thereof; a web-based application written in, for example, Java or Adobe Flex, which in one or more embodiments pulls real-time information from one or more servers, automatically refreshing with latest information at a predetermined time increment; or any combination thereof.

[0102] In one or more embodiments, a computer system typically includes at least hardware capable of executing machine readable instructions, as well as the software for executing acts (typically machine-readable instructions) that produce a desired result. In one or more embodiments, a computer system may include hybrids of hardware and software, as well as computer sub-systems.

[0103] In one or more embodiments, hardware generally includes at least processor-capable platforms, such as client-machines (also known as personal computers or servers), and hand-held processing devices (such as smart phones, tablet computers, or personal computing devices (PCDs), for example). In one or more embodiments, hardware may include any physical device that is capable of storing machine-readable instructions, such as memory or other data storage devices. In one or more embodiments, other forms of hardware include hardware sub-systems, including transfer devices such as modems, modem cards, ports, and port cards, for example.

[0104] In one or more embodiments, software includes any machine code stored in any memory medium, such as RAM or ROM, and machine code stored on other devices (such as floppy disks, flash memory, or a CD-ROM, for example). In one or more embodiments, software may include source or object code. In one or more embodiments, software encompasses any set of instructions capable of being executed on a node such as, for example, on a client machine or server.

[0105] In one or more embodiments, combinations of software and hardware could also be used for providing enhanced functionality and performance for certain embodiments of the present disclosure. In an embodiment, software functions may be directly manufactured into a silicon chip. Accordingly, it should be understood that combinations

of hardware and software are also included within the definition of a computer system and are thus envisioned by the present disclosure as possible equivalent structures and equivalent methods.

[0106] In one or more embodiments, computer readable mediums include, for example, passive data storage, such as a random-access memory (RAM) as well as semi-permanent data storage such as a compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM). One or more embodiments of the present disclosure may be embodied in the RAM of a computer to transform a standard computer into a new specific computing machine. In one or more embodiments, data structures are defined organizations of data that may enable an embodiment of the present disclosure. In an embodiment, a data structure may provide an organization of data, or an organization of executable code.

[0107] In one or more embodiments, any networks and/or one or more portions thereof may be designed to work on any specific architecture. In an embodiment, one or more portions of any networks may be executed on a single computer, local area networks, client-server networks, wide area networks, internets, hand-held and other portable and wireless devices and networks.

[0108] In one or more embodiments, a database may be any standard or proprietary database software. In one or more embodiments, the database may have fields, records, data, and other database elements that may be associated through database specific software. In one or more embodiments, data may be mapped. In one or more embodiments, mapping is the process of associating one data entry with another data entry. In an embodiment, the data contained in the location of a character file can be mapped to a field in a second table. In one or more embodiments, the physical location of the database is not limiting, and the database may be distributed. In an embodiment, the database may exist remotely from the server, and run on a separate platform. In an embodiment, the database may be accessible across the Internet. In one or more embodiments, more than one database may be implemented.

[0109] In one or more embodiments, a plurality of instructions stored on a computer readable medium may be executed by one or more processors to cause the one or more processors to carry out or implement in whole or in part one or more of the embodiments

of one or more of the controller(s) (e.g., the controller 156), element(s), apparatus, system(s) (e.g., the hydraulic fracturing system 100), method(s) (e.g., the method 175, the method 270, or both), step(s), and/or sub-step(s), or any combination thereof, described above and/or illustrated in Figures 1A through 19B. In one or more embodiments, such a processor may include one or more of the microprocessor 1000a, any processor(s) that are part of the components of the hydraulic fracturing system 100, such as, for example, the controller 156, and/or any combination thereof, and such a computer readable medium may be distributed among one or more components of the system. In one or more embodiments, such a processor may execute the plurality of instructions in connection with a virtual computer system. In one or more embodiments, such a plurality of instructions may communicate directly with the one or more processors, and/or may interact with one or more operating systems, middleware, firmware, other applications, and/or any combination thereof, to cause the one or more processors to execute the instructions.

[0110] A first method has been disclosed. The first method generally includes: (a) permitting performance of a first hydraulic fracturing operation on a first well, which first hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the first well via a first valve associated with the first well, and measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well; (b) determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time; (c) during pumping of the fluid into the first well via the first valve, opening a second valve associated with a second well; (d) permitting performance of a second hydraulic fracturing operation on the second well, which second hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the second well via the second valve; and (e) during pumping of the fluid into the second well via the second valve, closing the first valve associated with the first well; wherein, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is continuously pumped to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is in fluid communication with a hydraulic manifold from which fluid is pumped to the first valve and/or the second valve; and, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is

continuously pumped from the hydraulic manifold to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, the second valve is opened after step (b). In one or more embodiments, the first valve includes a grease port; and the method further includes withholding grease from the grease port after step (e). In one or more embodiments, the second valve includes a grease port; and the method further includes: during and/or after opening the second valve, communicating grease to the grease port of the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is a zipper valve. In one or more embodiments, step (d): further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well; and is, or is part of, a hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well; and the method further includes: determining that the hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well has ended; determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above the flow rate threshold; closing the second valve associated with the second well; withholding grease from a grease port of the second valve; receiving a signal to advance; opening a third valve associated with a third well; and during and/or after opening the third valve, communicating grease to a grease port of the third valve.

[0111] A first apparatus has also been disclosed. The first apparatus generally includes: a non-transitory computer readable medium; and a plurality of instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium and executable by one or more processors, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are executed: (a) permitting performance of a first hydraulic fracturing operation on a first well, which first hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the first well via a first valve associated with the first well, and measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well; (b) determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the first well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time; (c) during pumping of the fluid into the first well via the first valve, opening a second valve associated with a second well; (d) permitting performance of a second hydraulic fracturing operation on the second well, which second hydraulic fracturing operation includes pumping fluid into the second well via the second valve; and (e) during pumping of the fluid into the second well via the second valve,

closing the first valve associated with the first well; wherein, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is continuously pumped to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is in fluid communication with a hydraulic manifold from which fluid is pumped to the first valve and/or the second valve; wherein, during each of steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), fluid is continuously pumped from the hydraulic manifold to the first valve, the second valve, or both the first valve and the second valve. In one or more embodiments, the second valve is opened after step (b). In one or more embodiments, the first valve includes a grease port; and, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed: withholding grease from the grease port after step (e). In one or more embodiments, the second valve includes a grease port; and, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed: during and/or after opening the second valve, communicating grease to the grease port of the second valve. In one or more embodiments, each of the first and second valves is a zipper valve. In one or more embodiments, step (d): further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well; and is, or is part of, a hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well; and, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are also executed: determining that the hydraulic fracturing stage of the second well has ended; determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above the flow rate threshold; closing the second valve associated with the second well; withholding grease from a grease port of the second valve; receiving a signal to advance; opening a third valve associated with a third well; and during and/or after opening the third valve, communicating grease to a grease port of the third valve.

[0112] A second method has also been disclosed. The second method generally includes: (a) queuing, using a controller, a first well in a first hydraulic fracturing queue, which first hydraulic fracturing queue is associated with a first plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the first well and a second well; (b) dequeuing, using the controller, the second well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; (c) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second well; (d) dequeuing, using the controller,

the first well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; and (e) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the first well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; and step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well. In one or more embodiments, step (e) further includes, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) before the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, the step (e) further includes, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above a flow rate threshold, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) after the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, the method further includes: (f) queuing, using the controller, a third well in a second hydraulic fracturing queue, which second hydraulic fracturing queue is associated with a second plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the third well and a fourth well; (g) dequeuing, using the controller, the fourth well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; (h) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well; (i) dequeuing, using the controller, the third well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; and (j) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the third well. In one or more embodiments, steps (c) and (h) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from a hydraulic manifold; and steps (e) and (j) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from the hydraulic manifold. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve

associated with the second well; step (h) includes opening a fourth valve associated with the fourth well to permit pumping of fluid into the fourth well via the fourth valve; and step (j) includes: opening a third valve associated with the third well to permit pumping of fluid into the third well via the third valve; and closing the fourth valve associated with the fourth well.

[0113] A second apparatus has also been disclosed. The second apparatus generally includes: a non-transitory computer readable medium; and a plurality of instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium and executable by one or more processors, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are executed: (a) queuing a first well in a first hydraulic fracturing queue, which first hydraulic fracturing queue includes a first plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the first well and a second well; (b) dequeuing the second well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; (c) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second well; (d) dequeuing the first well from the first hydraulic fracturing queue; and (e) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the second well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the first well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; and step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well. In one or more embodiments, step (c) further includes measuring a flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well. In one or more embodiments, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is below a flow rate threshold and has been below the flow rate threshold for a threshold amount of time, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) before the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, in response to determining that the flow rate of the fluid being pumped into the second well is above a flow rate threshold, the first valve associated with the first well is opened at step (e) after the second valve associated with the second well is closed at step (e). In one or more embodiments, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the

following steps are also executed: (f) queuing a third well in a second hydraulic fracturing queue, which second hydraulic fracturing queue includes a second plurality of wells standing by for hydraulic fracturing, including at least the third well and a fourth well; (g) dequeuing the fourth well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; (h) permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well; (i) dequeuing the third well from the second hydraulic fracturing queue; and (j) swapping from permitting hydraulic fracturing of the fourth well to permitting hydraulic fracturing of the third well. In one or more embodiments, steps (c) and (h) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from a hydraulic manifold; and steps (e) and (j) are executed simultaneously using hydraulic fracturing fluid from the hydraulic manifold. In one or more embodiments, step (c) includes opening a second valve associated with the second well to permit pumping of fluid into the second well via the second valve; step (e) includes: opening a first valve associated with the first well to permit pumping of fluid into the first well via the first valve; and closing the second valve associated with the second well; step (h) includes opening a fourth valve associated with the fourth well to permit pumping of fluid into the fourth well via the fourth valve; and step (j) includes: opening a third valve associated with the third well to permit pumping of fluid into the third well via the third valve; and closing the fourth valve associated with the fourth well.

[0114] It is understood that variations may be made in the foregoing without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

[0115] In several embodiments, the elements and teachings of the various embodiments may be combined in whole or in part in some (or all) of the embodiments. In addition, one or more of the elements and teachings of the various embodiments may be omitted, at least in part, and/or combined, at least in part, with one or more of the other elements and teachings of the various embodiments.

[0116] Any spatial references, such as, for example, “upper,” “lower,” “above,” “below,” “between,” “bottom,” “vertical,” “horizontal,” “angular,” “upwards,” “downwards,” “side-to-side,” “left-to-right,” “right-to-left,” “top-to-bottom,” “bottom-to-top,” “top,” “bottom,” “bottom-up,” “top-down,” etc., are for the purpose of illustration only and do not limit the specific orientation or location of the structure described above.

[0117] In several embodiments, while different steps, processes, and procedures are described as appearing as distinct acts, one or more of the steps, one or more of the processes, and/or one or more of the procedures may also be performed in different orders, simultaneously and/or sequentially. In several embodiments, the steps, processes, and/or procedures may be merged into one or more steps, processes and/or procedures.

[0118] In several embodiments, one or more of the operational steps in each embodiment may be omitted. Moreover, in some instances, some features of the present disclosure may be employed without a corresponding use of the other features. Moreover, one or more of the above-described embodiments and/or variations may be combined in whole or in part with any one or more of the other above-described embodiments and/or variations.

[0119] Although several embodiments have been described in detail above, the embodiments described are illustrative only and are not limiting, and those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many other modifications, changes and/or substitutions are possible in the embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of the present disclosure. Accordingly, all such modifications, changes, and/or substitutions are intended to be included within the scope of this disclosure as defined in the following claims. In the claims, any means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents, but also equivalent structures. Moreover, it is the express intention of the applicant not to invoke 35 U.S.C. § 112(f) for any limitations of any of the claims herein, except for those in which the claim expressly uses the word “means” together with an associated function.

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve
being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied one or more conditions:
opening a second valve;
communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and
closing the first valve after opening the second valve.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
communicating fluid to a third well via the manifold and a third valve, the third
valve being associated with both the manifold and the third well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied the one or more conditions:
opening a fourth valve;
communicating fluid to a fourth well via the fourth valve; and
closing the third valve after opening the fourth valve.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein:
the first valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve;
and/or
the third valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more conditions include one or more
flow rate conditions.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
pumping the fluid into the manifold.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein:
the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or
the second valve is a second zipper valve.
11. An apparatus, comprising:
a non-transitory computer readable medium; and
a plurality of instructions stored on the non-transitory computer readable medium and executable by one or more processors, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are executed:
communicating fluid to a first well via a manifold and a first valve, the first valve being associated with both the manifold and the first well; and

in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold
has satisfied one or more conditions:
opening a second valve;
communicating fluid to a second well via the second valve; and
closing the first valve after opening the second valve.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following steps are also executed:
communicating fluid to a third well via the manifold and a third valve, the third valve being associated with both the manifold and the third well; and
in response to determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions:
opening a fourth valve;
communicating fluid to a fourth well via the fourth valve; and
closing the third valve after opening the fourth valve.
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:
the first valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve;
and/or
the third valve is closed after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.
14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the one or more conditions include one or more flow rate conditions.
15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.
17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed:
pumping the fluid into the manifold.
18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein, when the instructions are executed by the one or more processors, the following step is also executed:
determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has satisfied the one or more conditions.
19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or
the second valve is a second zipper valve.
21. A system, comprising:
a first valve via which fluid is communicated from a manifold to a first well;
a second valve via which fluid is adapted to be communicated to a second well;
and
one or more controllers,
configured to:
open the second valve to thereby communicate fluid to the second well via the second valve; and
close the first valve after opening the second valve,
in response to:

determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied one or more conditions.

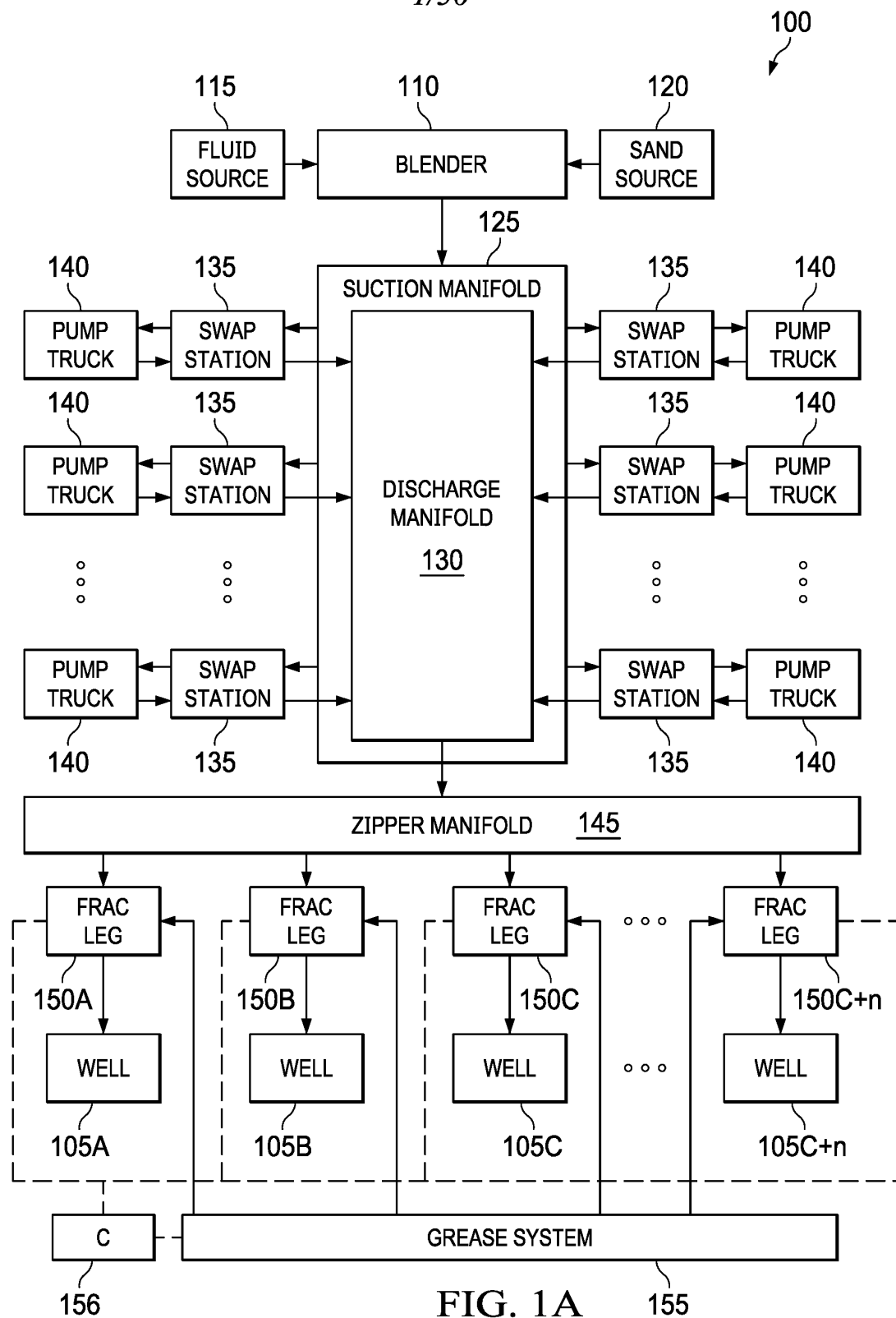
22. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a third valve via which fluid is communicated from the manifold to a third well;
a fourth valve via which the fluid is adapted to be communicated to a fourth well;
and
the one or more controllers,
configured to:
open the fourth valve to thereby communicate fluid to the fourth
well via the fourth valve; and
close the third valve after opening the fourth valve,
in response to:
determining that the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied the one or more conditions.
23. The system of claim 22, wherein the one or more controllers are further
configured to:
close the first valve after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve;
and/or
close the third valve after opening both the second valve and the fourth valve.
24. The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more conditions include one or more
flow rate conditions.
25. The system of claim 24, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has
satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is
below an upper threshold, above a lower threshold, or both.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold has not satisfied the one or more flow rate conditions when a flow rate of the fluid is above an upper threshold or below a lower threshold.
27. The system of claim 21, further comprising the manifold.
28. The system of claim 21, further comprising one or more pumps;
wherein the one or more controllers are further configured to cause the one or more pumps to pump the fluid into the manifold.
29. The system of claim 21, wherein the fluid communicated via the manifold is hydraulic fracturing fluid.
30. The system of claim 21, wherein:
the first valve is a first zipper valve; and/or
the second valve is a second zipper valve.

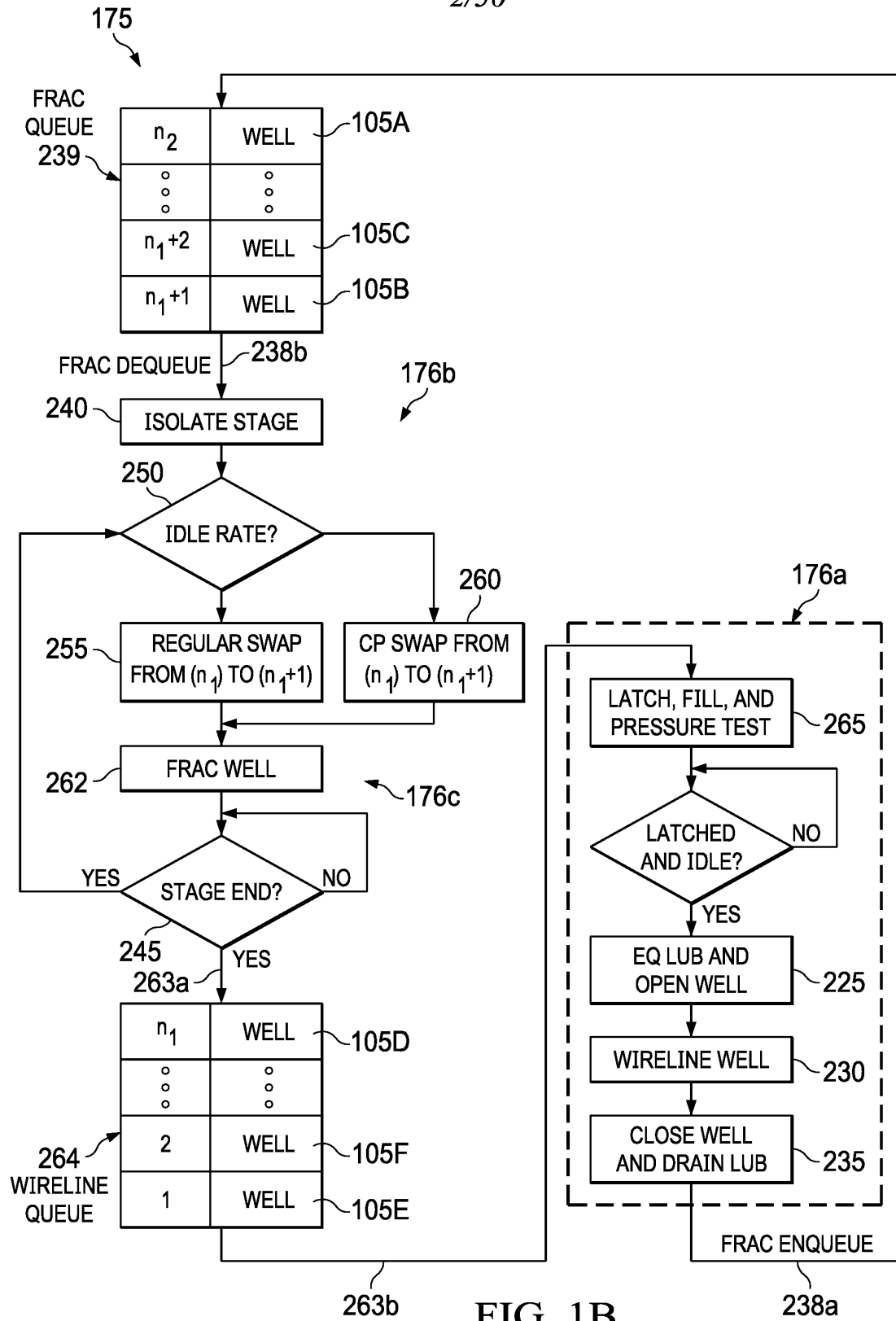
Abstract

A hydraulic fracturing plan executable by a hydraulic fracturing system to hydraulically fracture a plurality of oil and gas wells.

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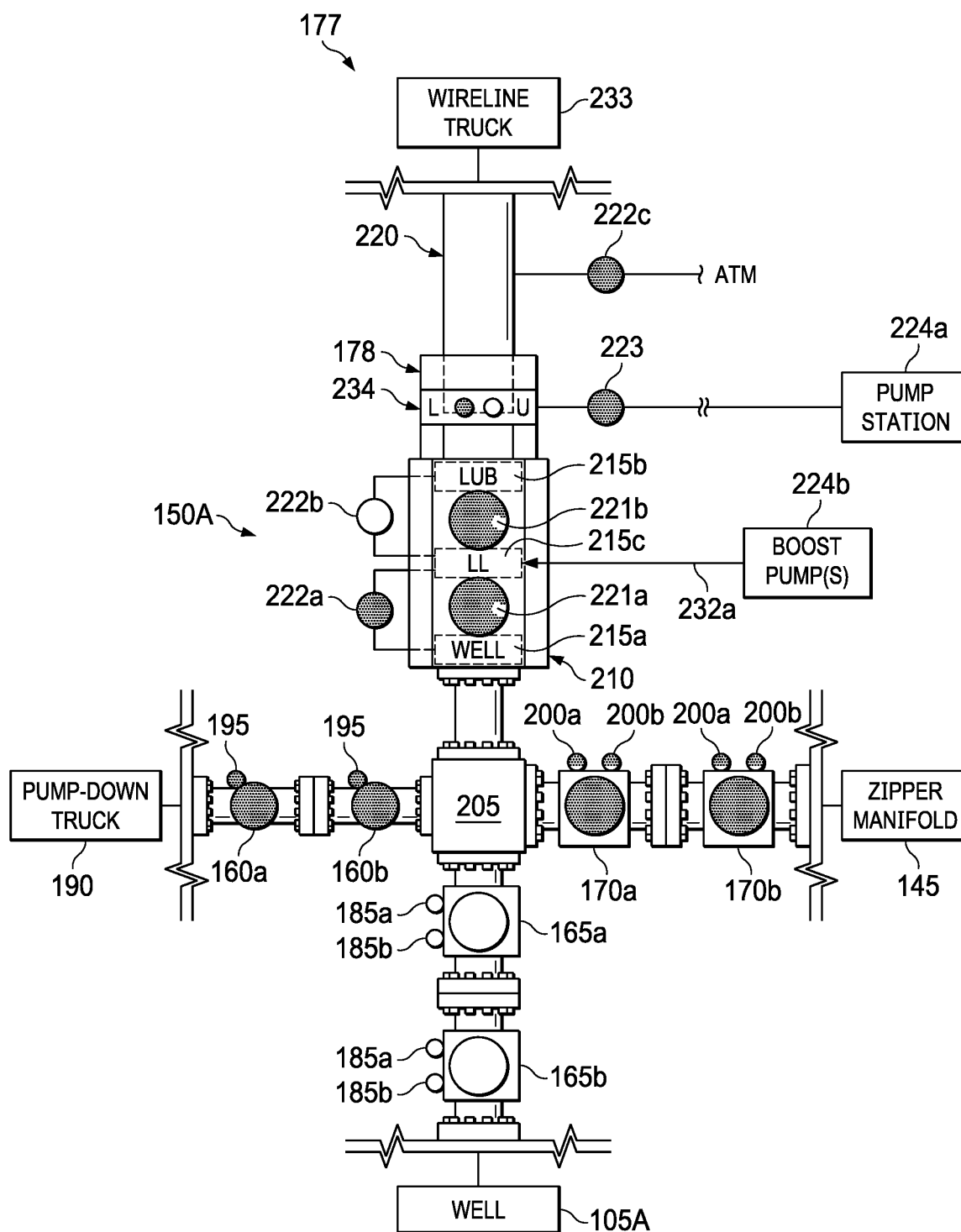


FIG. 2A

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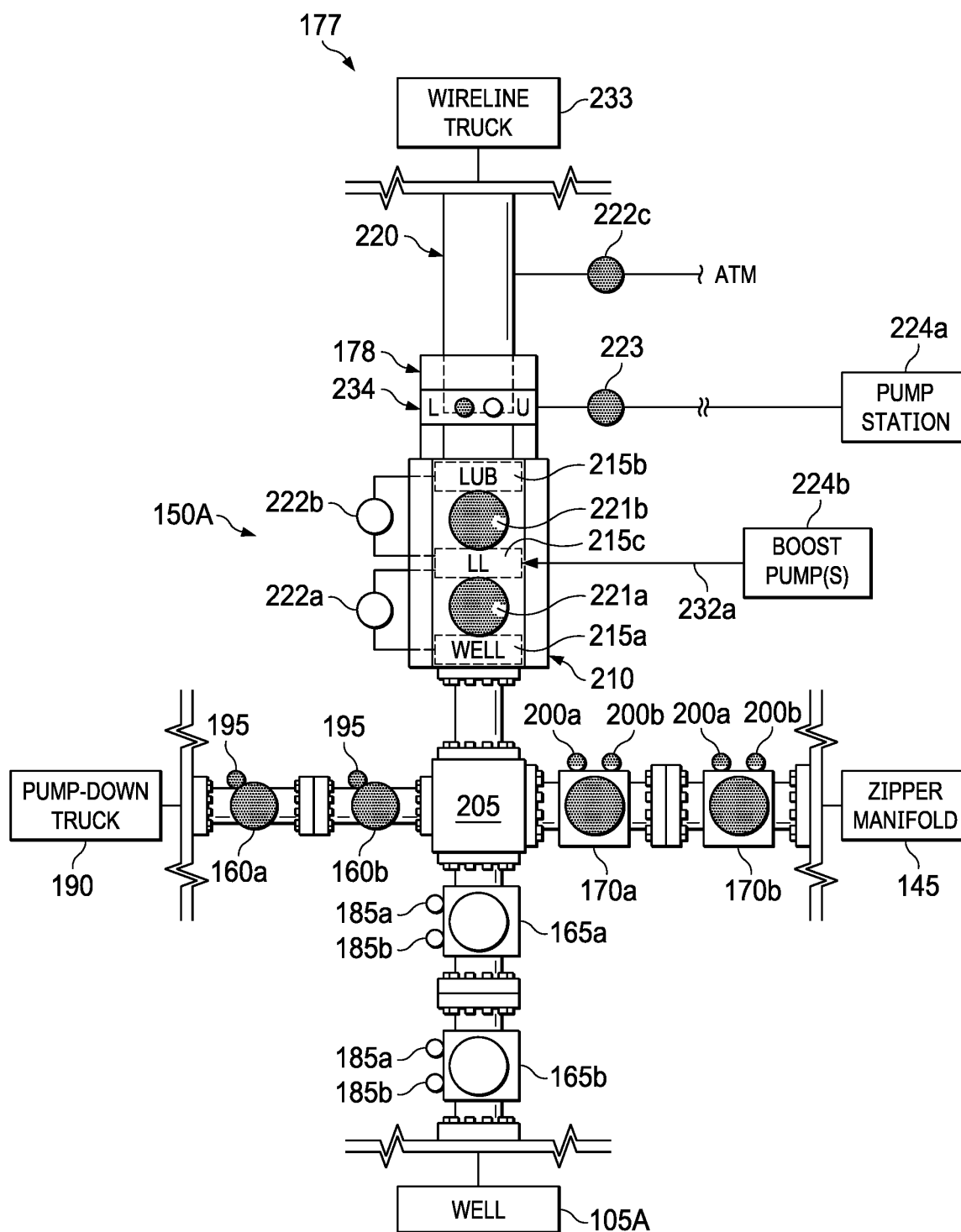


FIG. 2B

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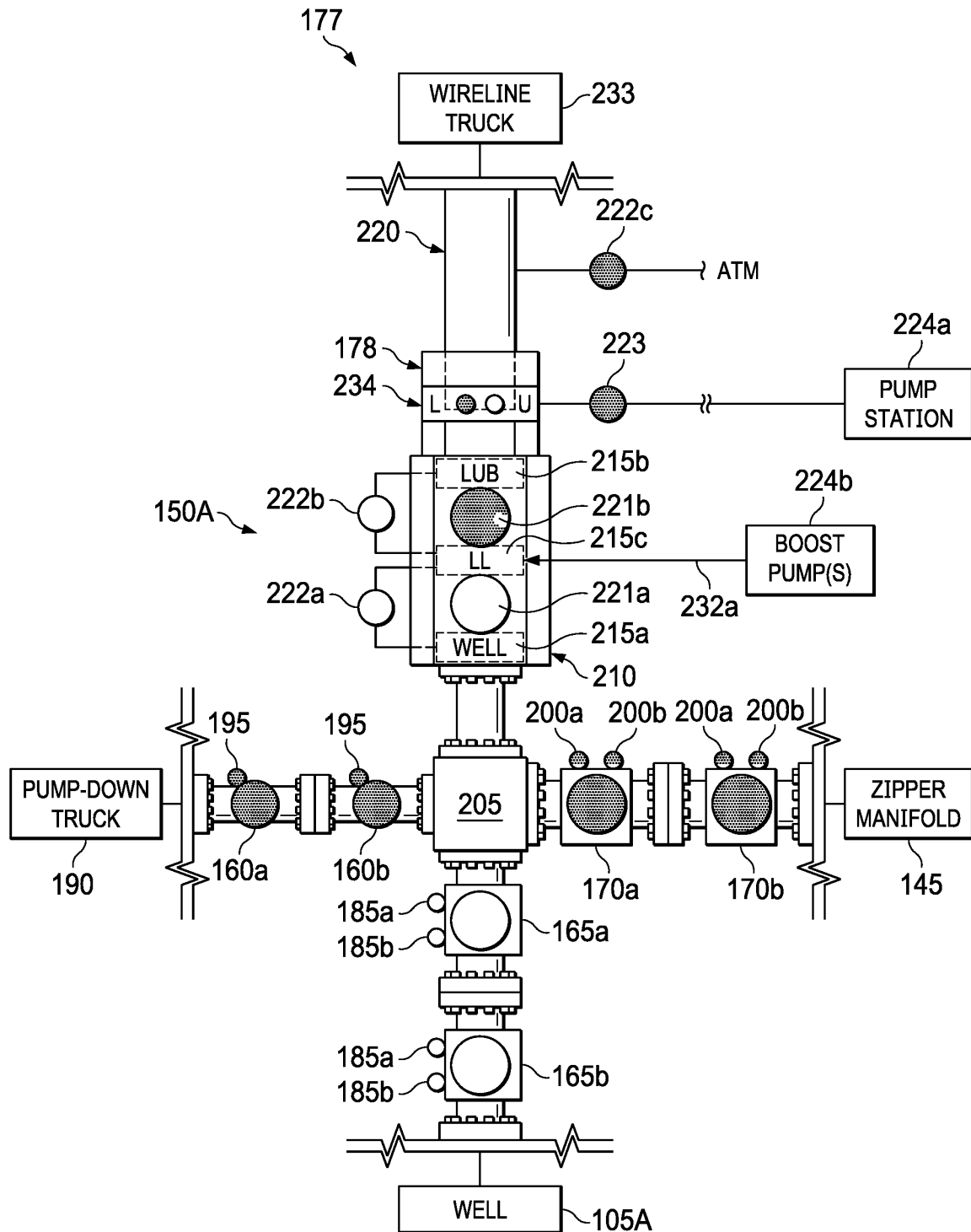
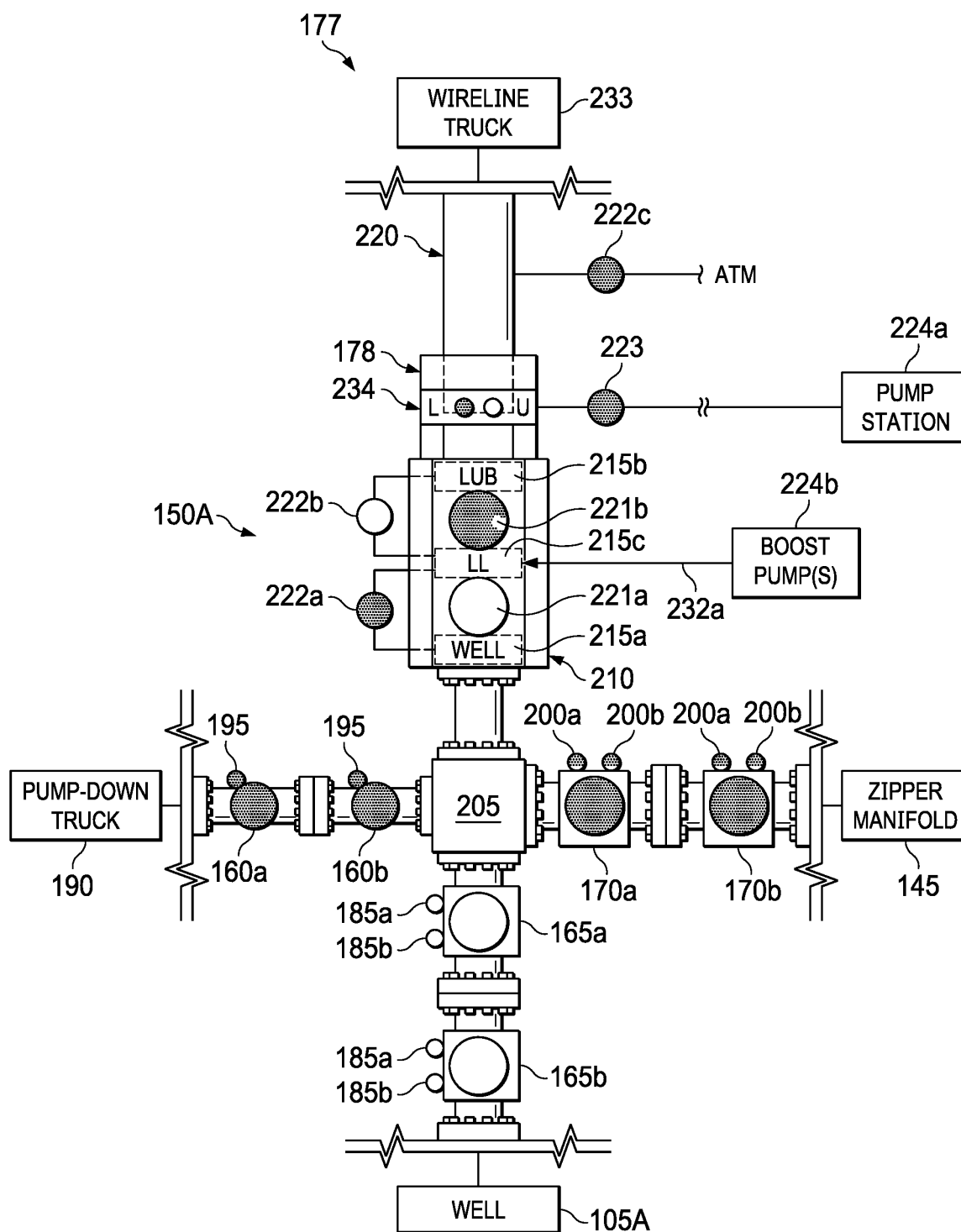


FIG. 2C



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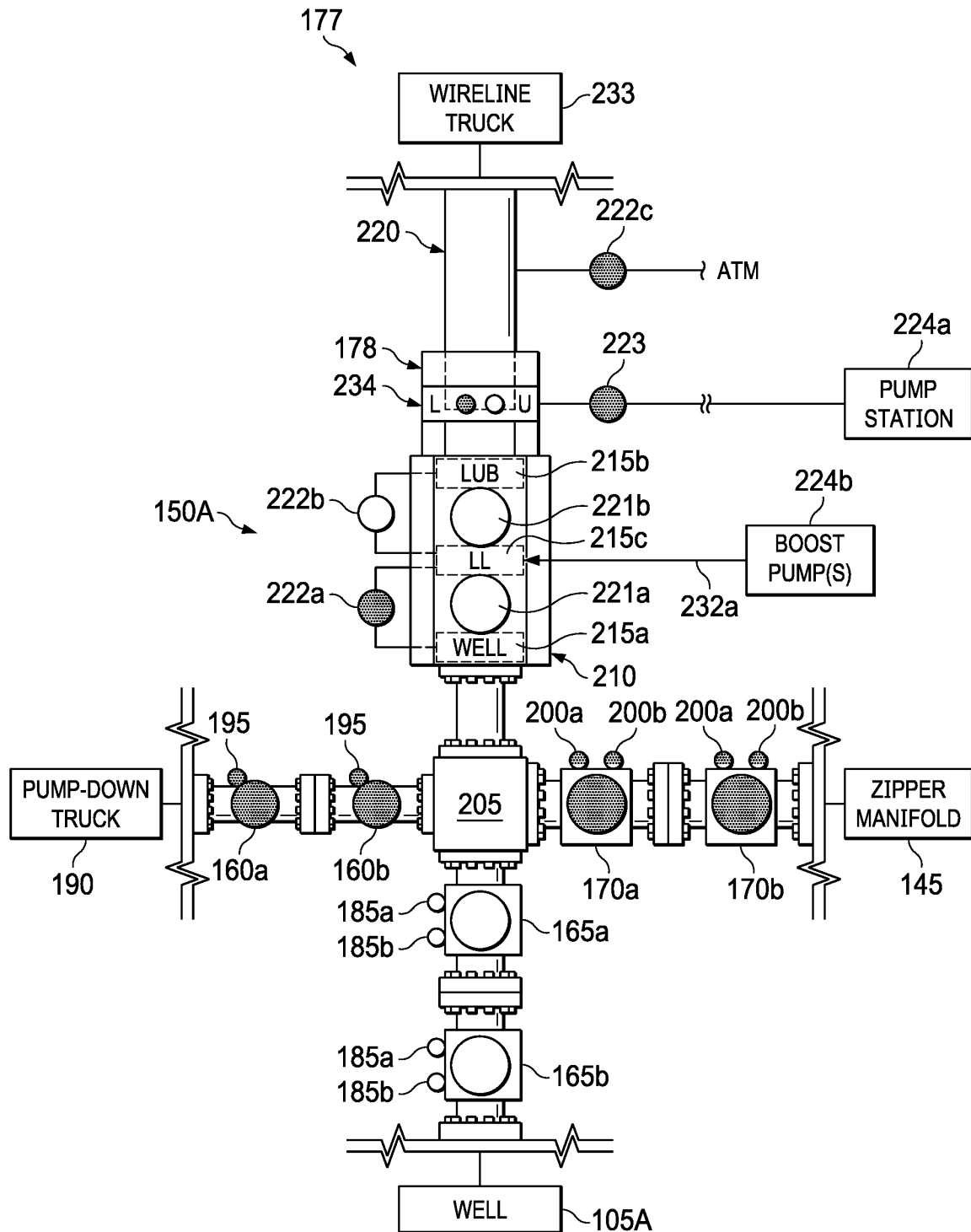


FIG. 2E

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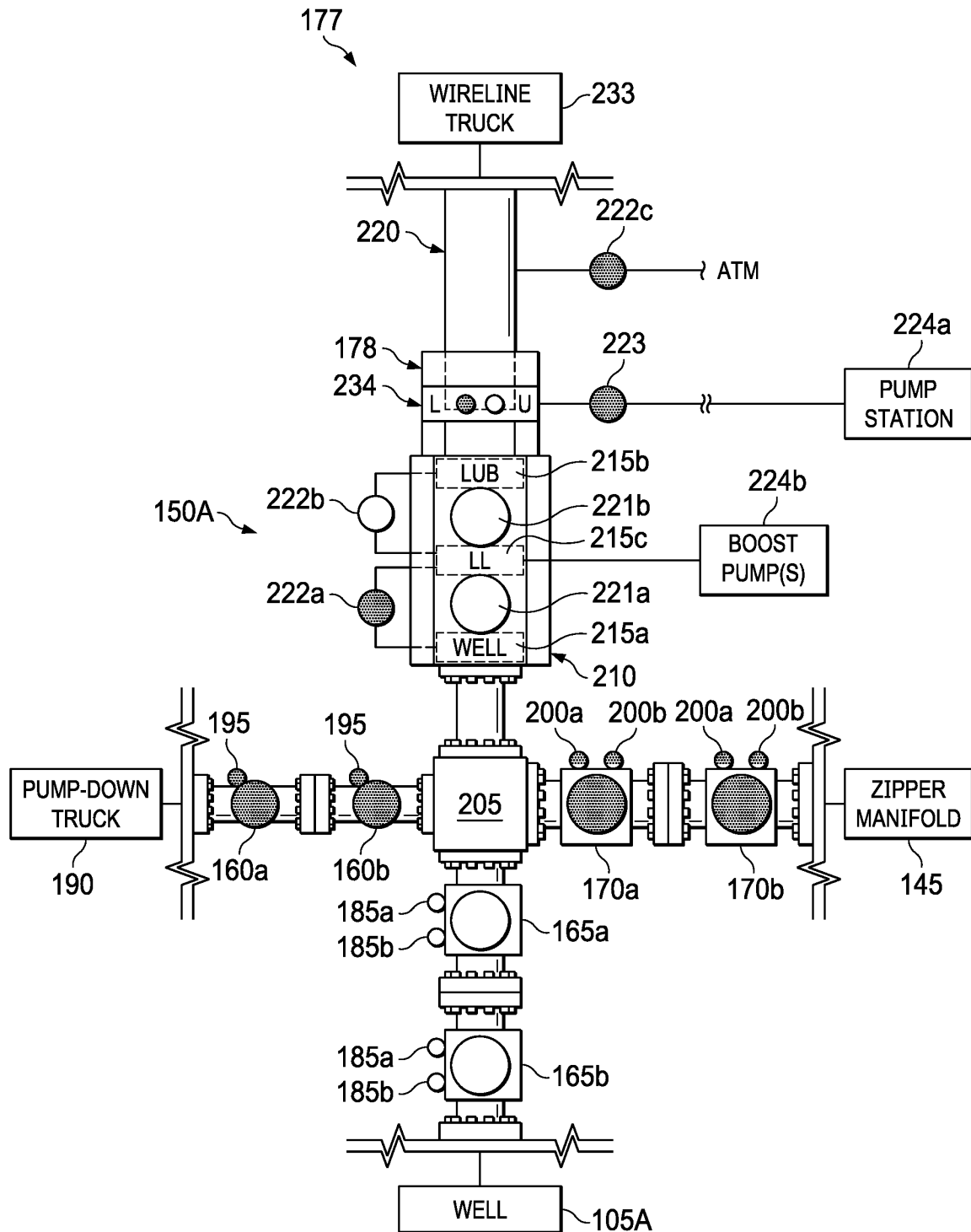


FIG. 2F

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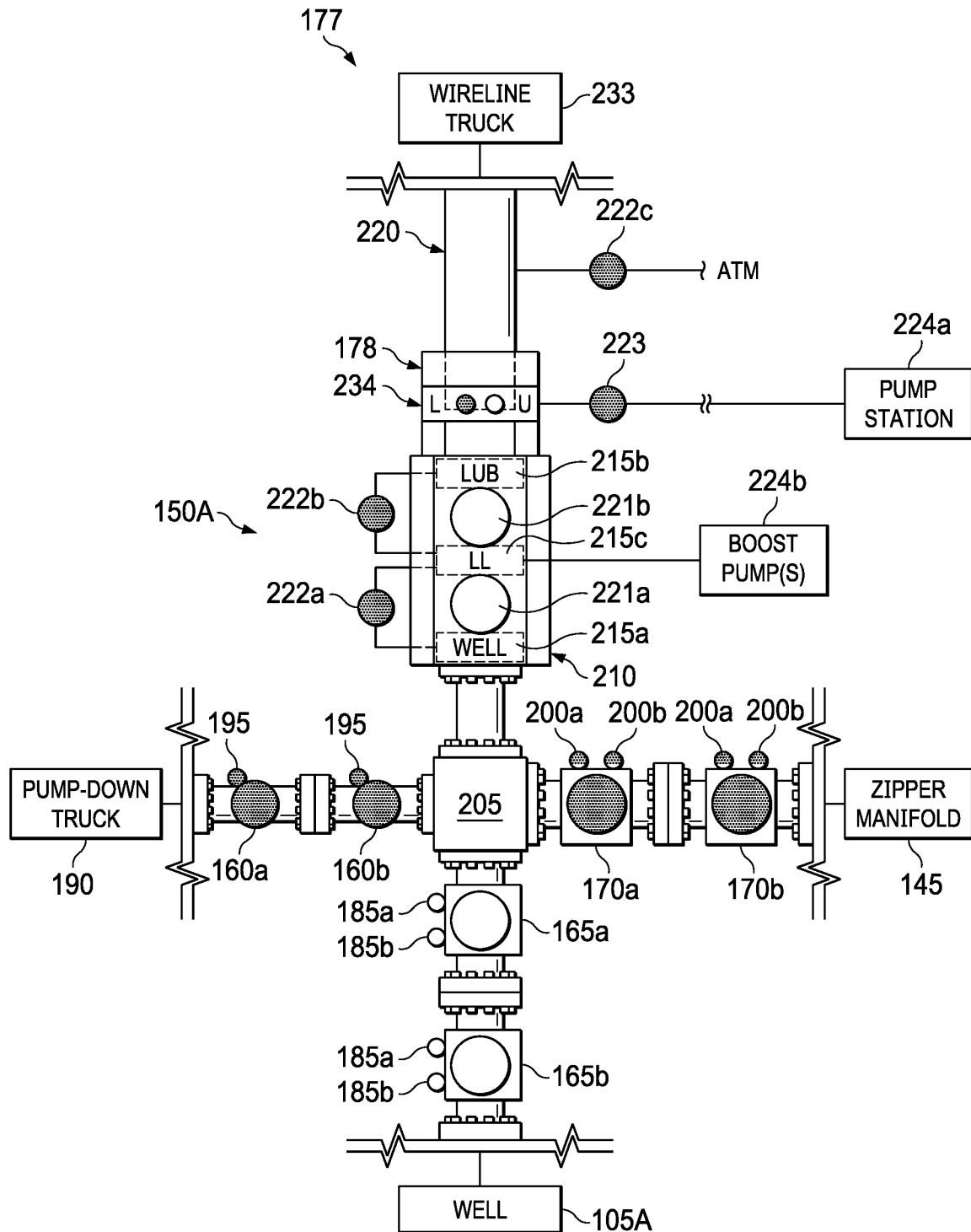


FIG. 2G

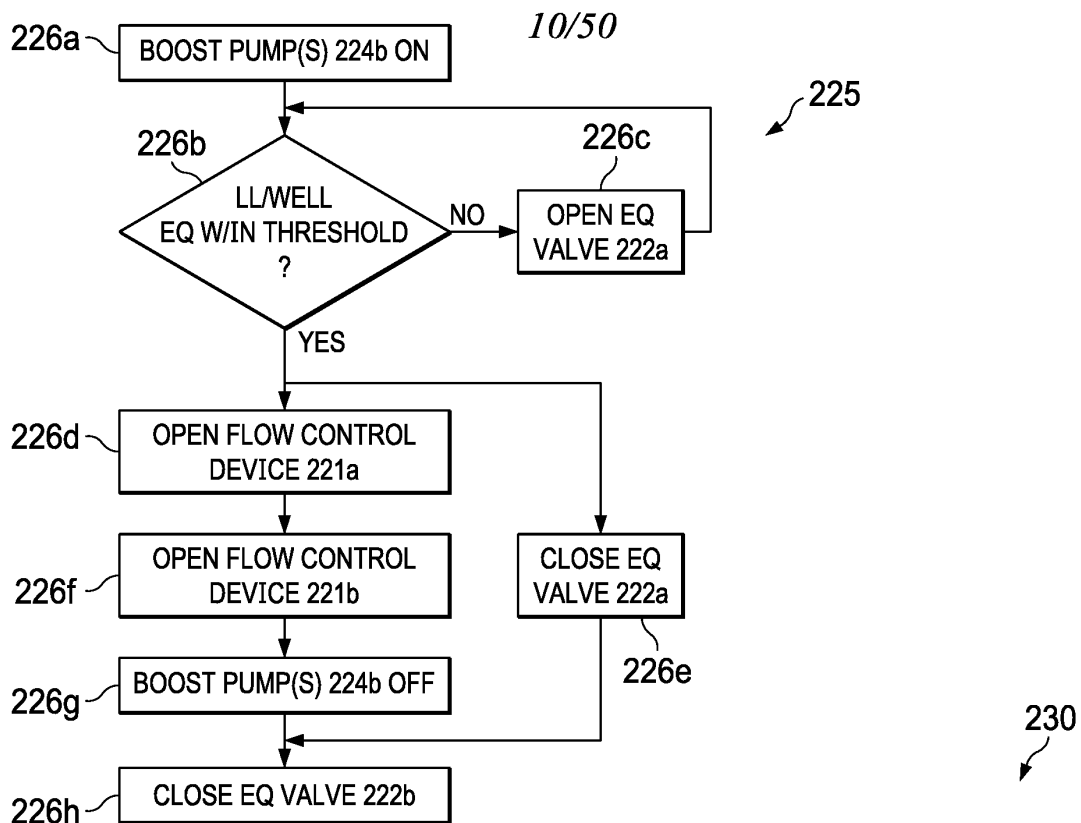


FIG. 3

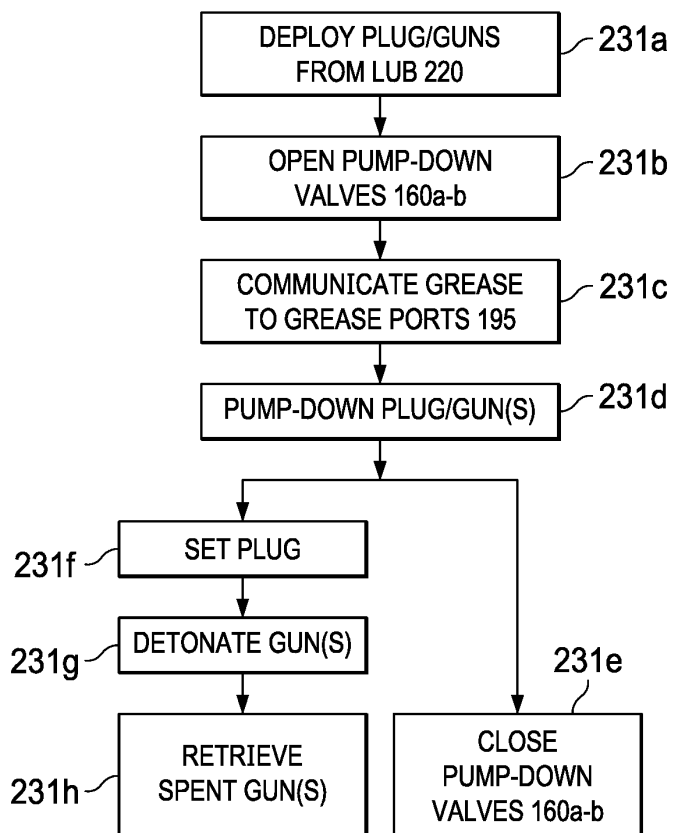
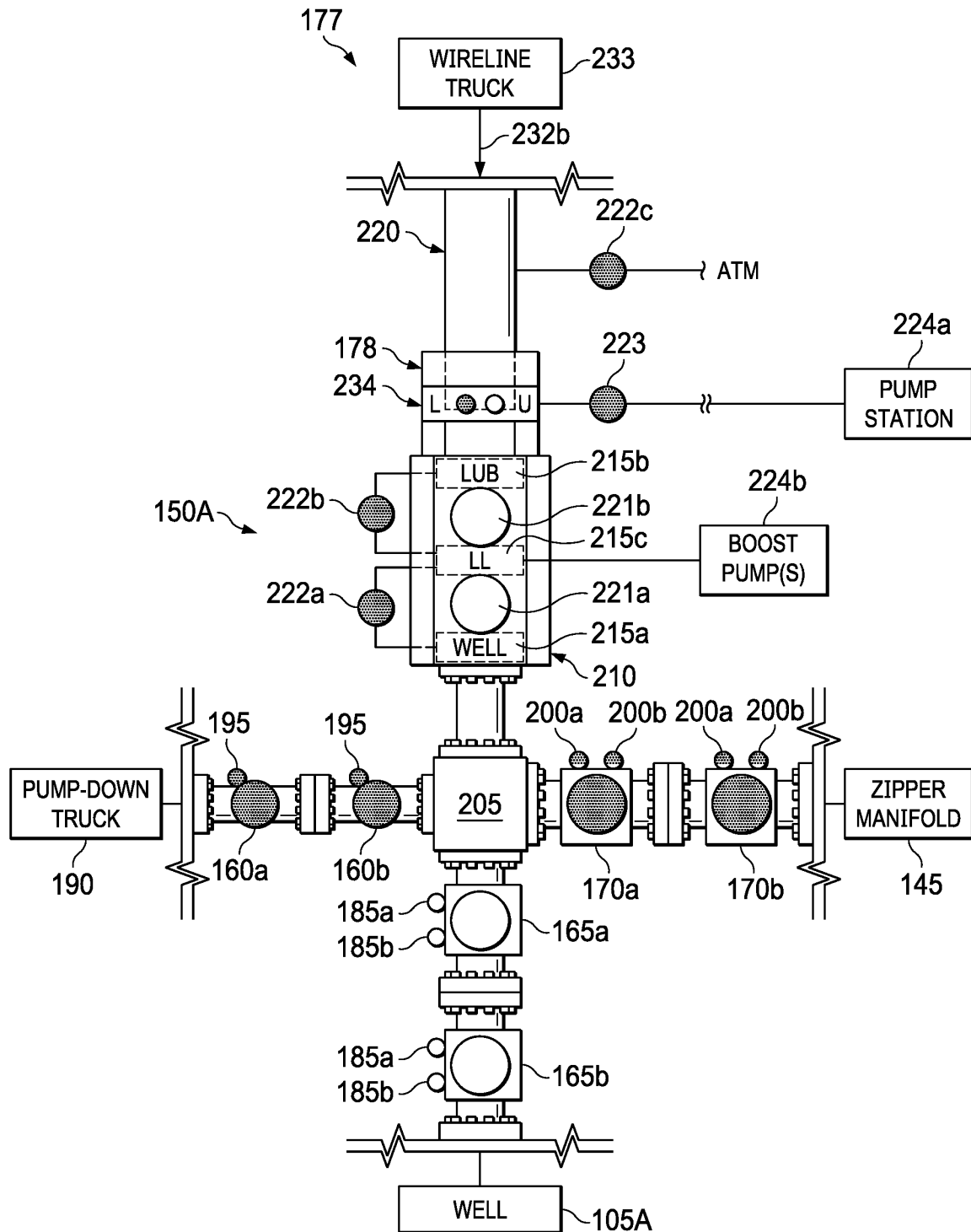


FIG. 4





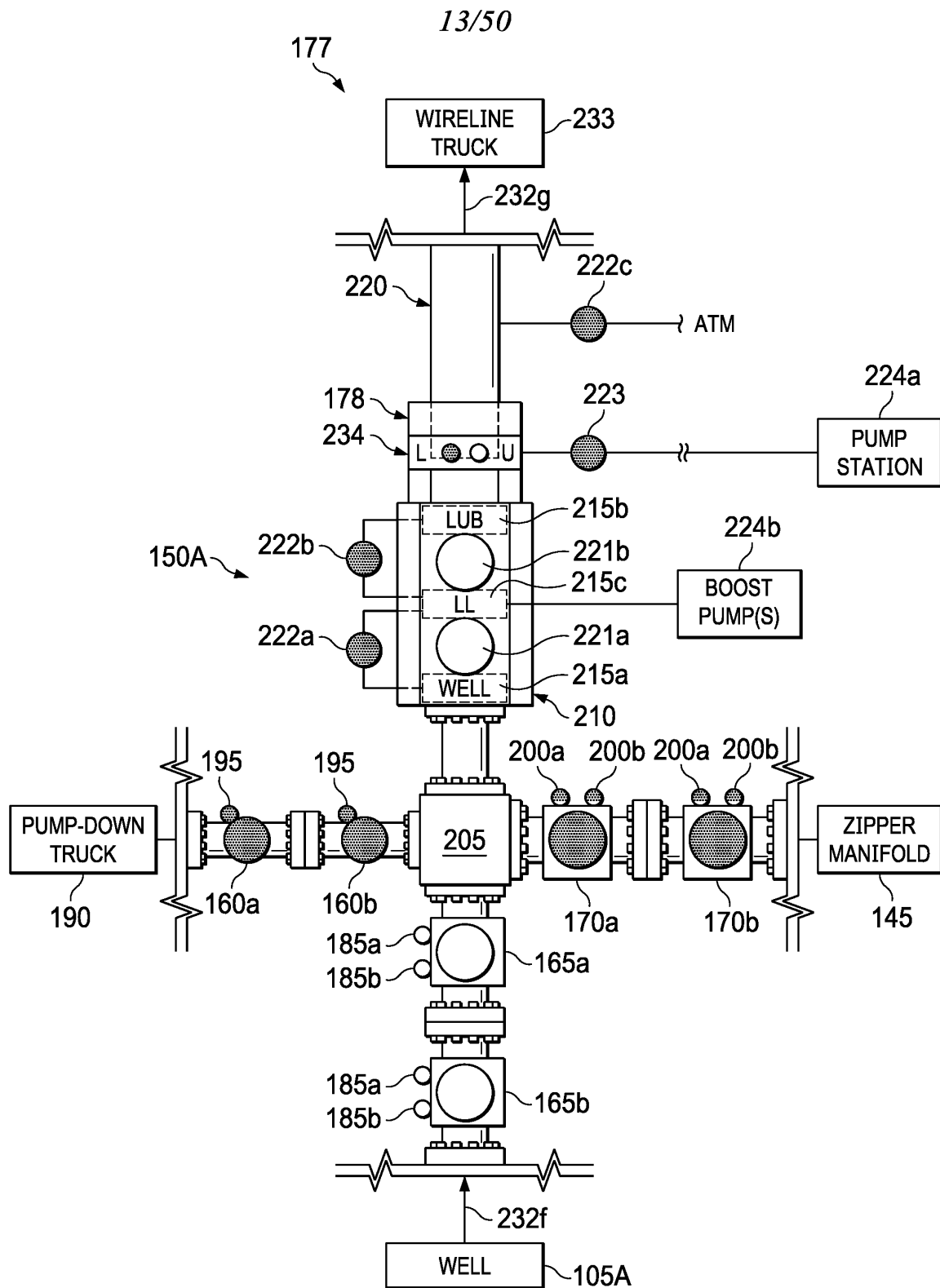


FIG. 5C

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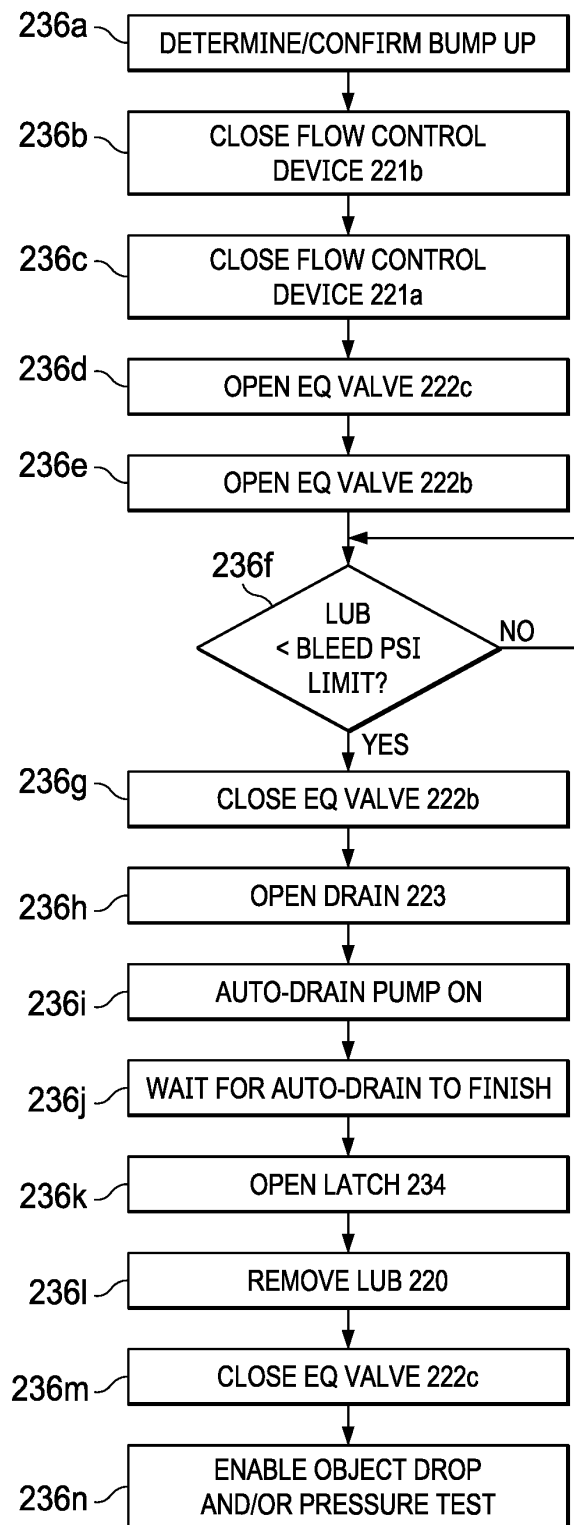


FIG. 6

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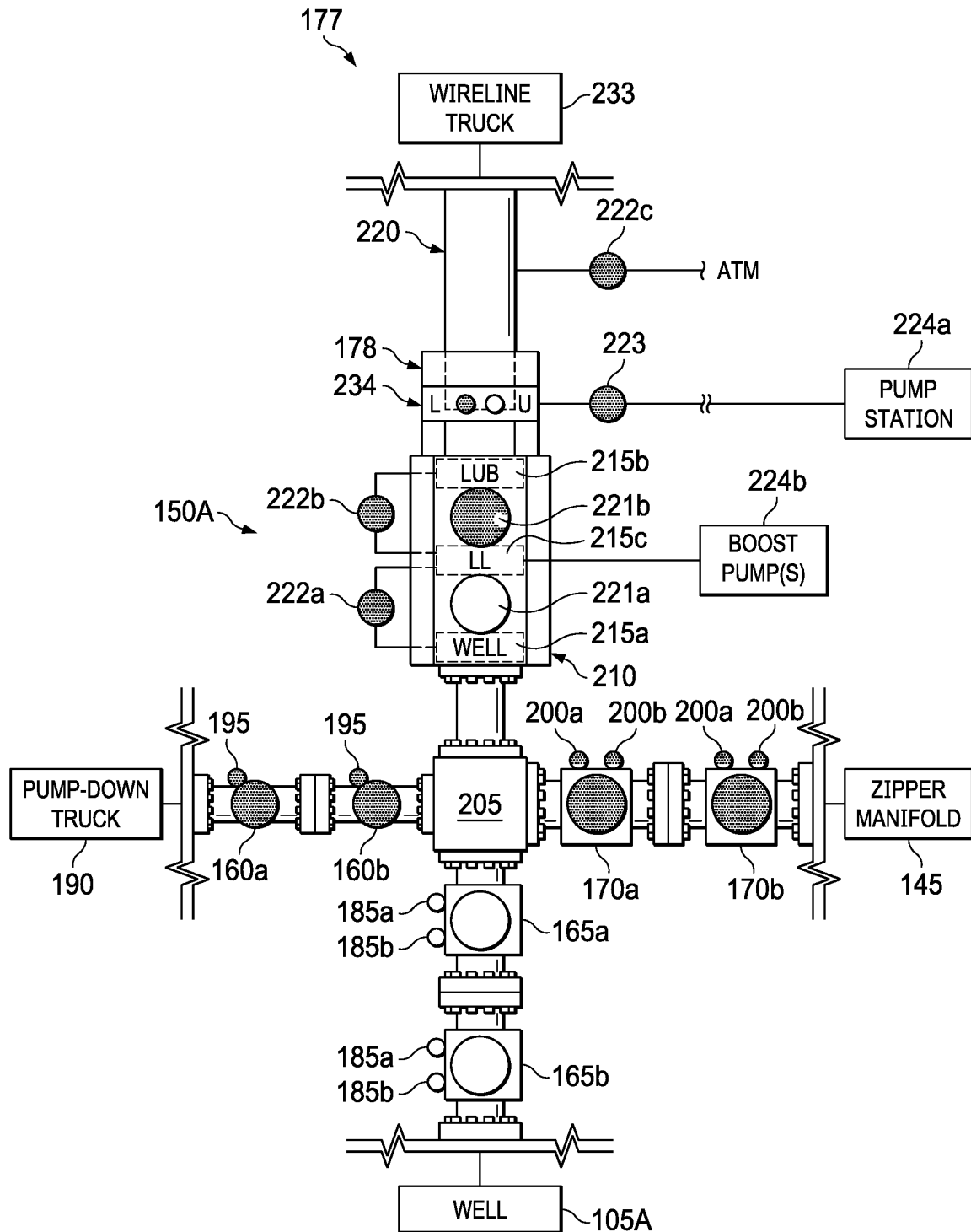


FIG. 7A

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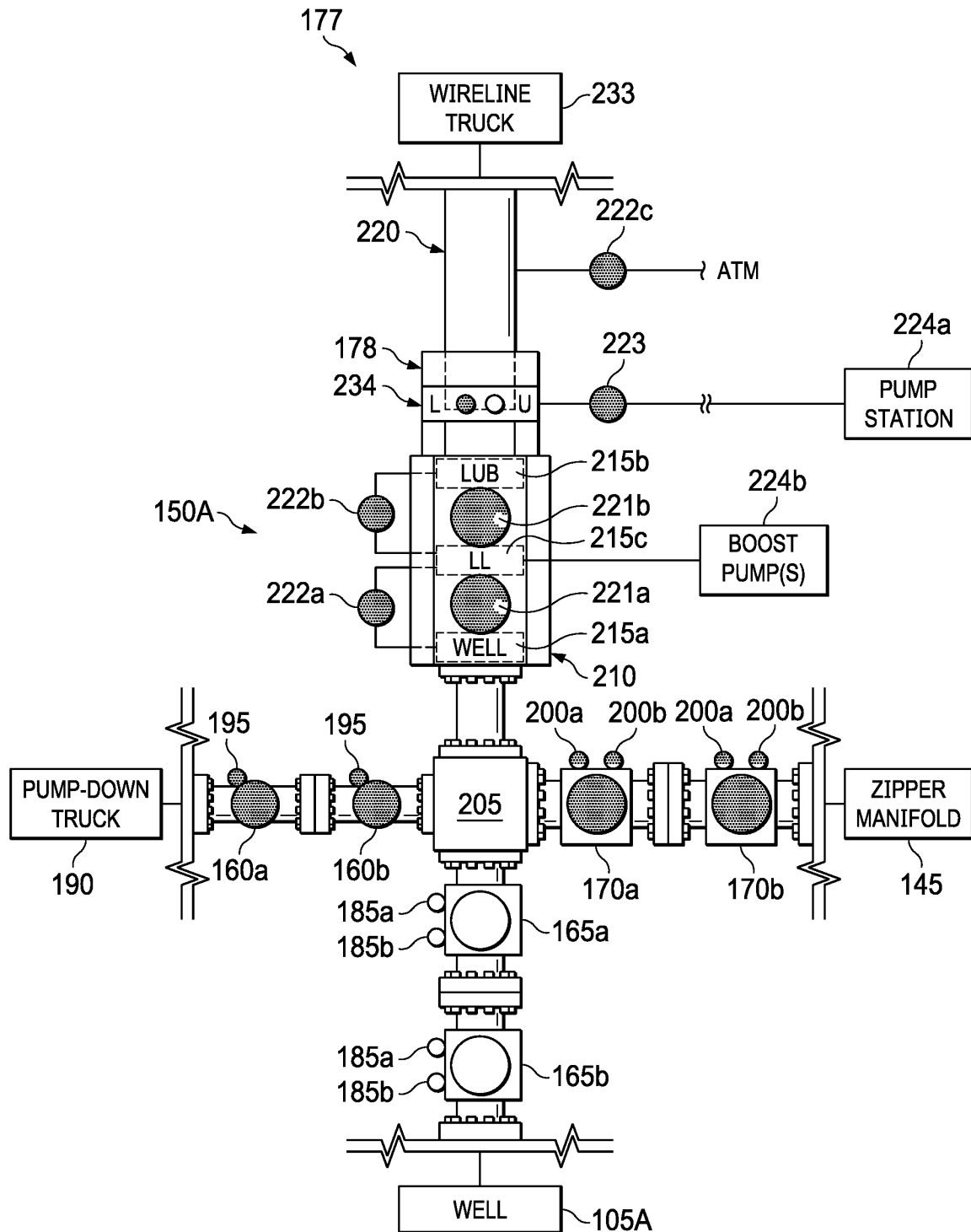


FIG. 7B

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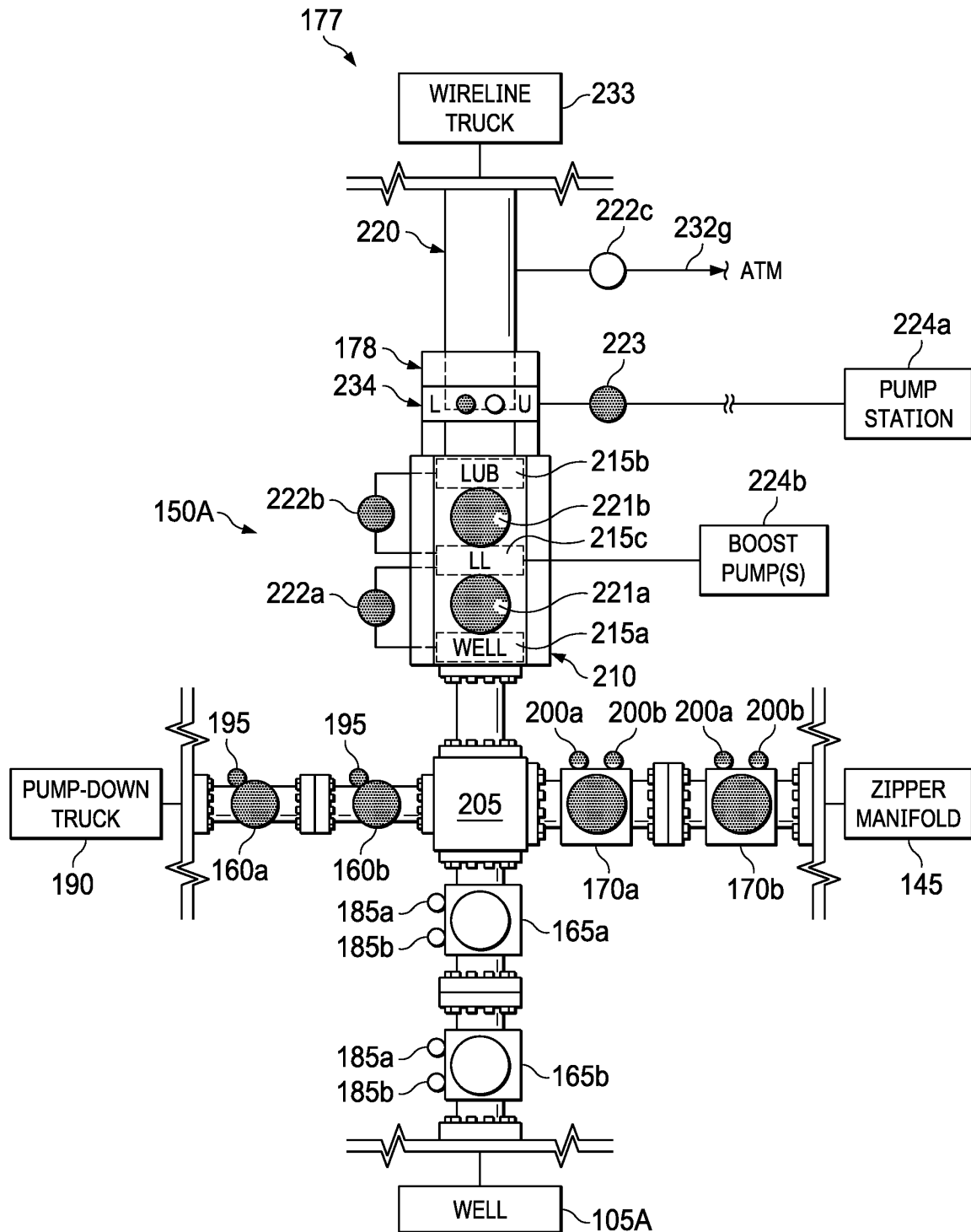


FIG. 7C

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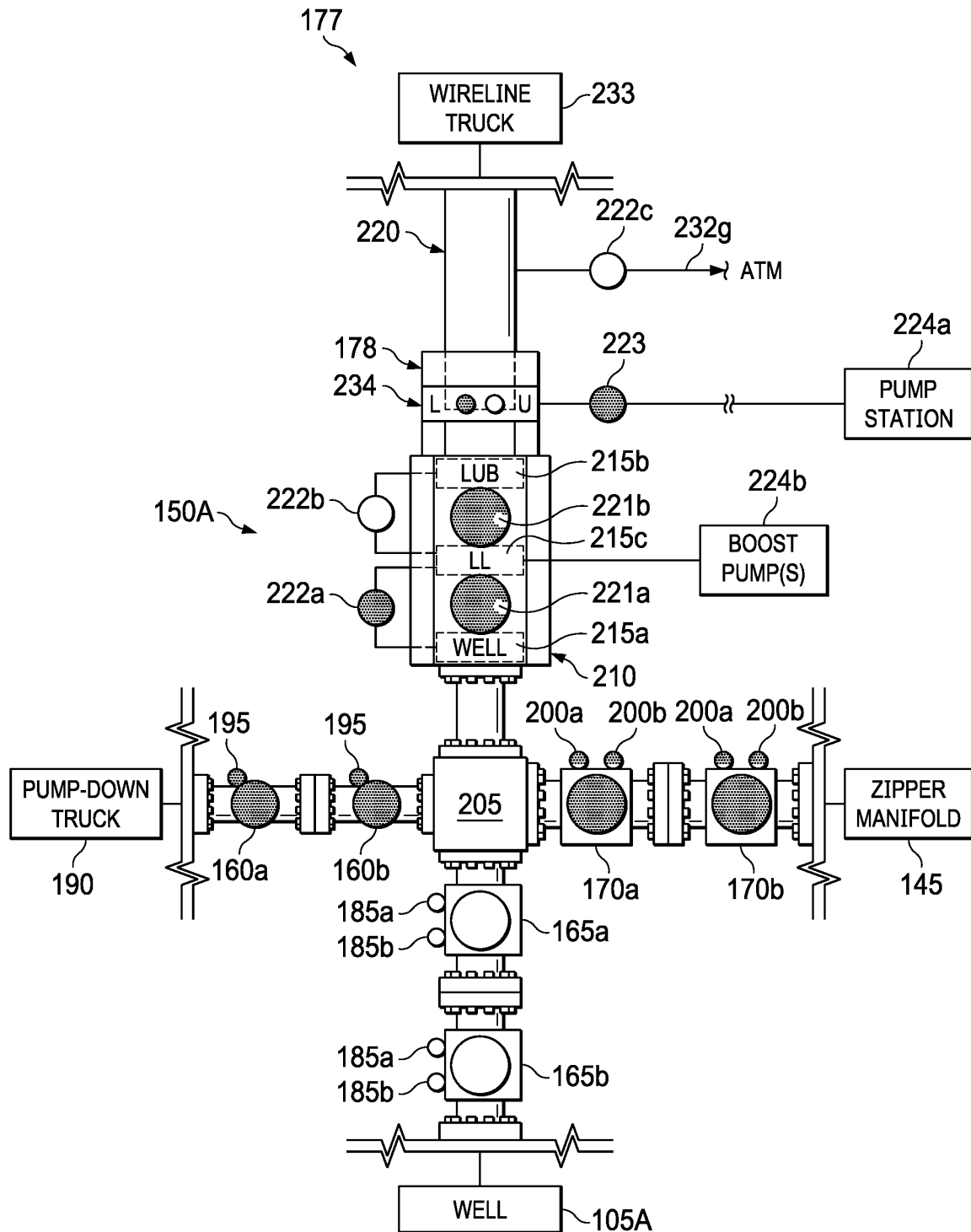


FIG. 7D

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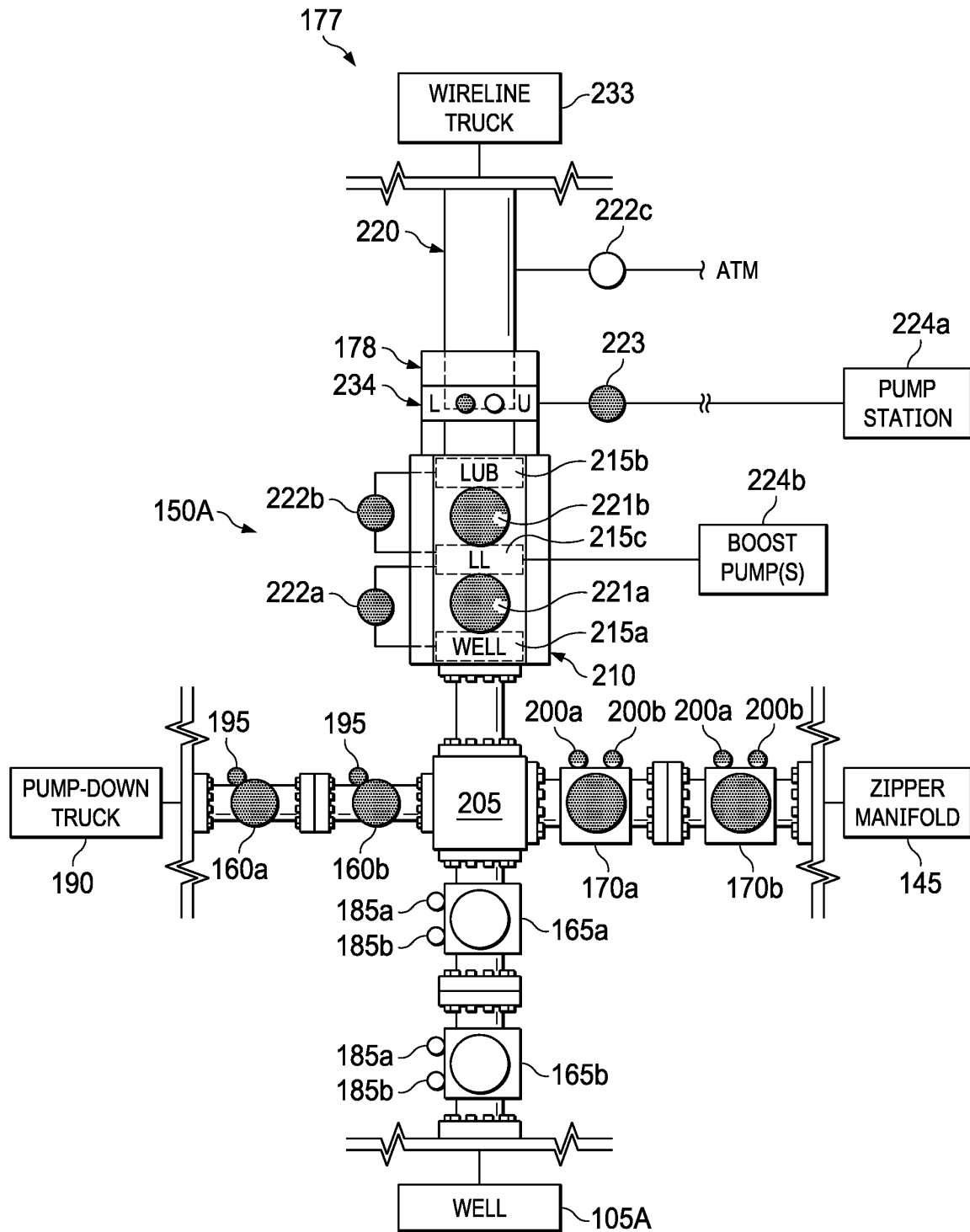


FIG. 7E

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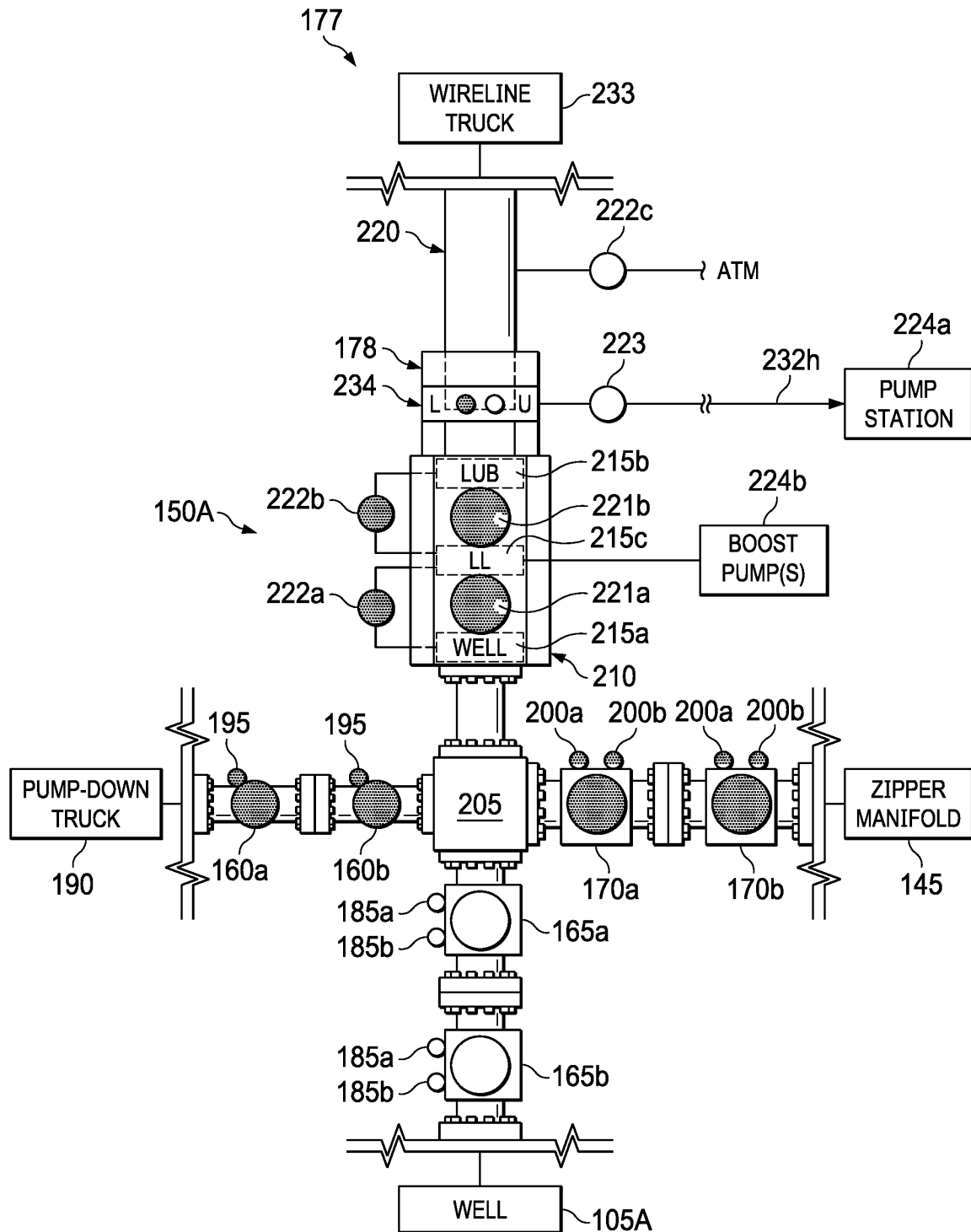


FIG. 7F

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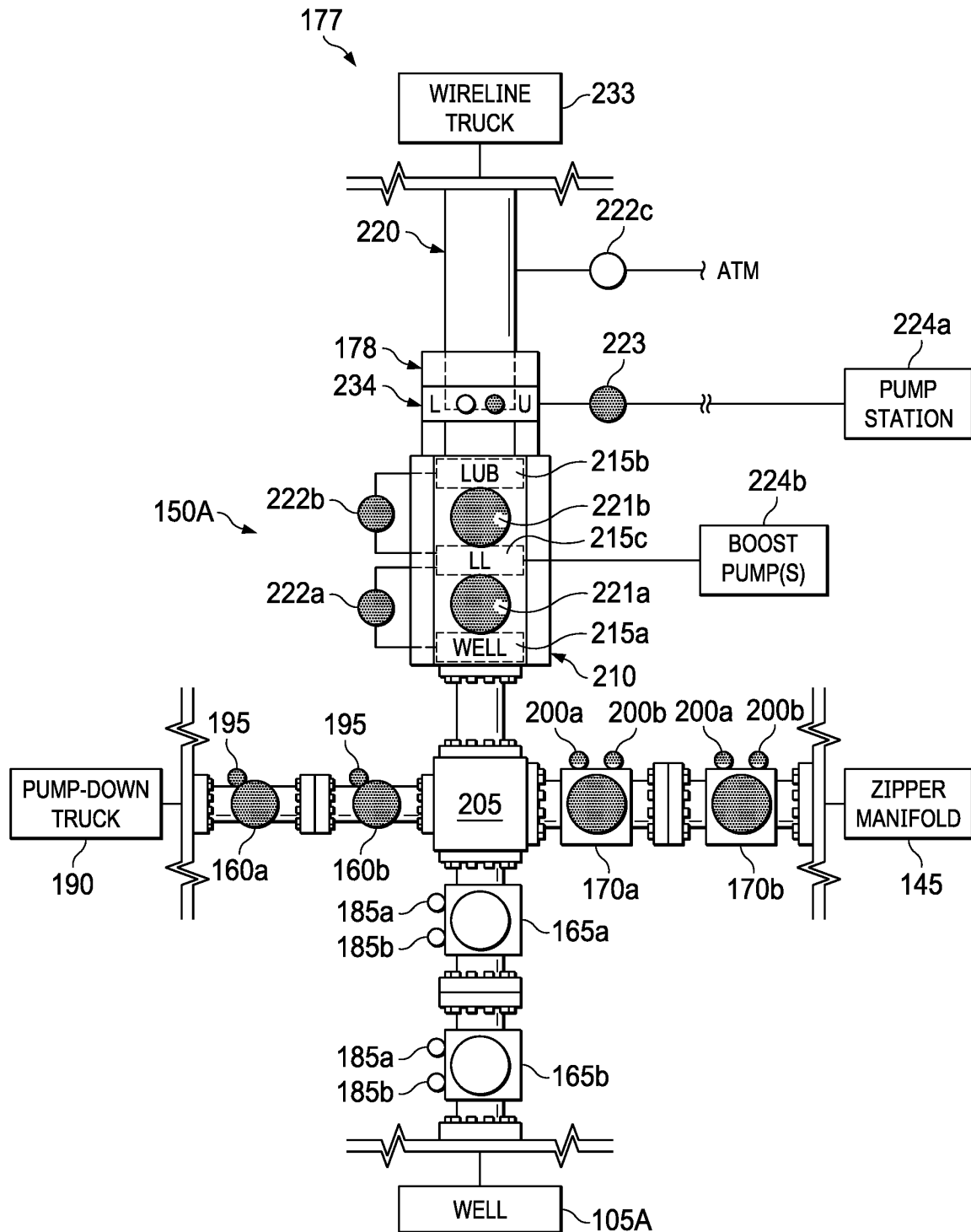


FIG. 7G

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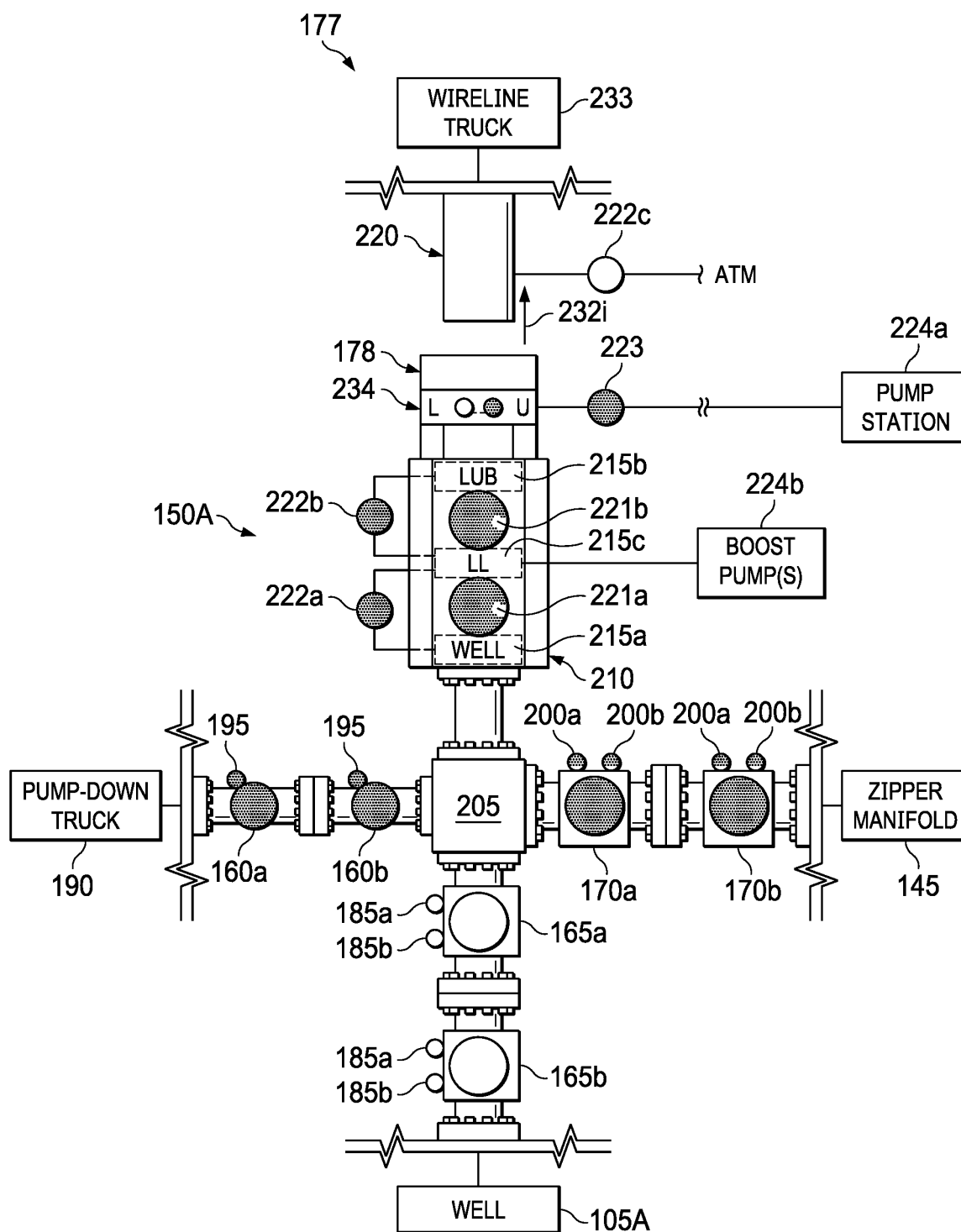


FIG. 7H

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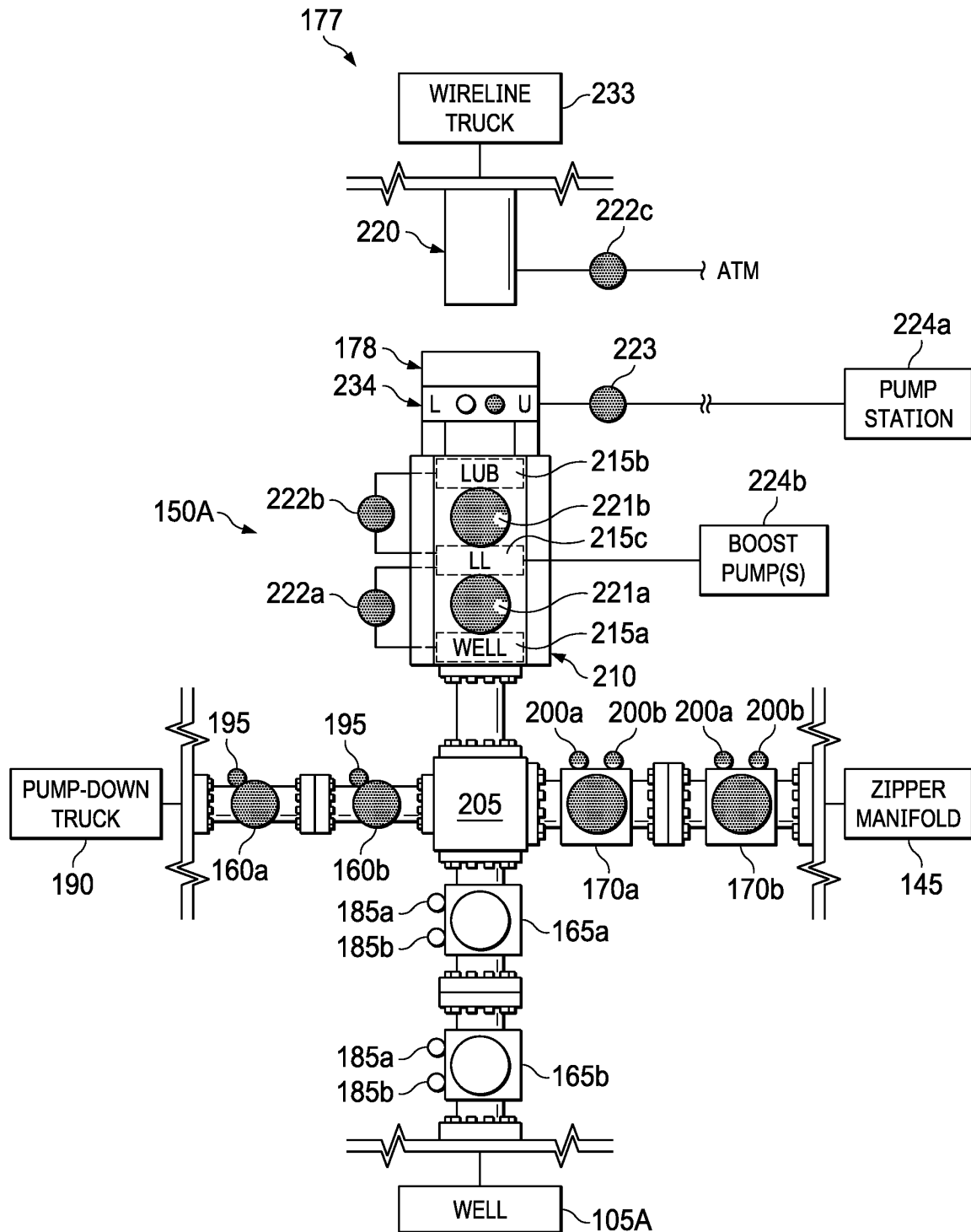


FIG. 7I

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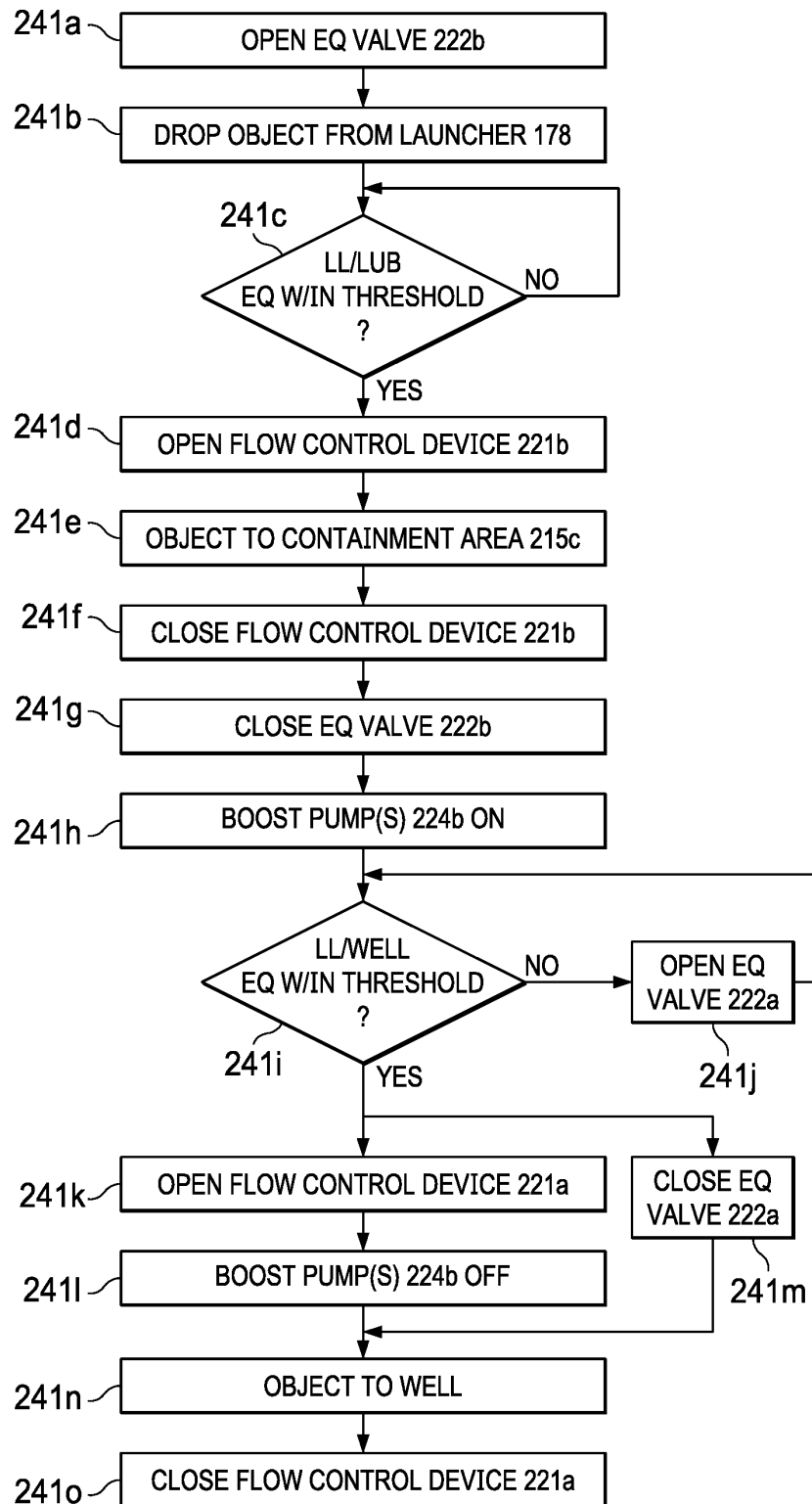


FIG. 8

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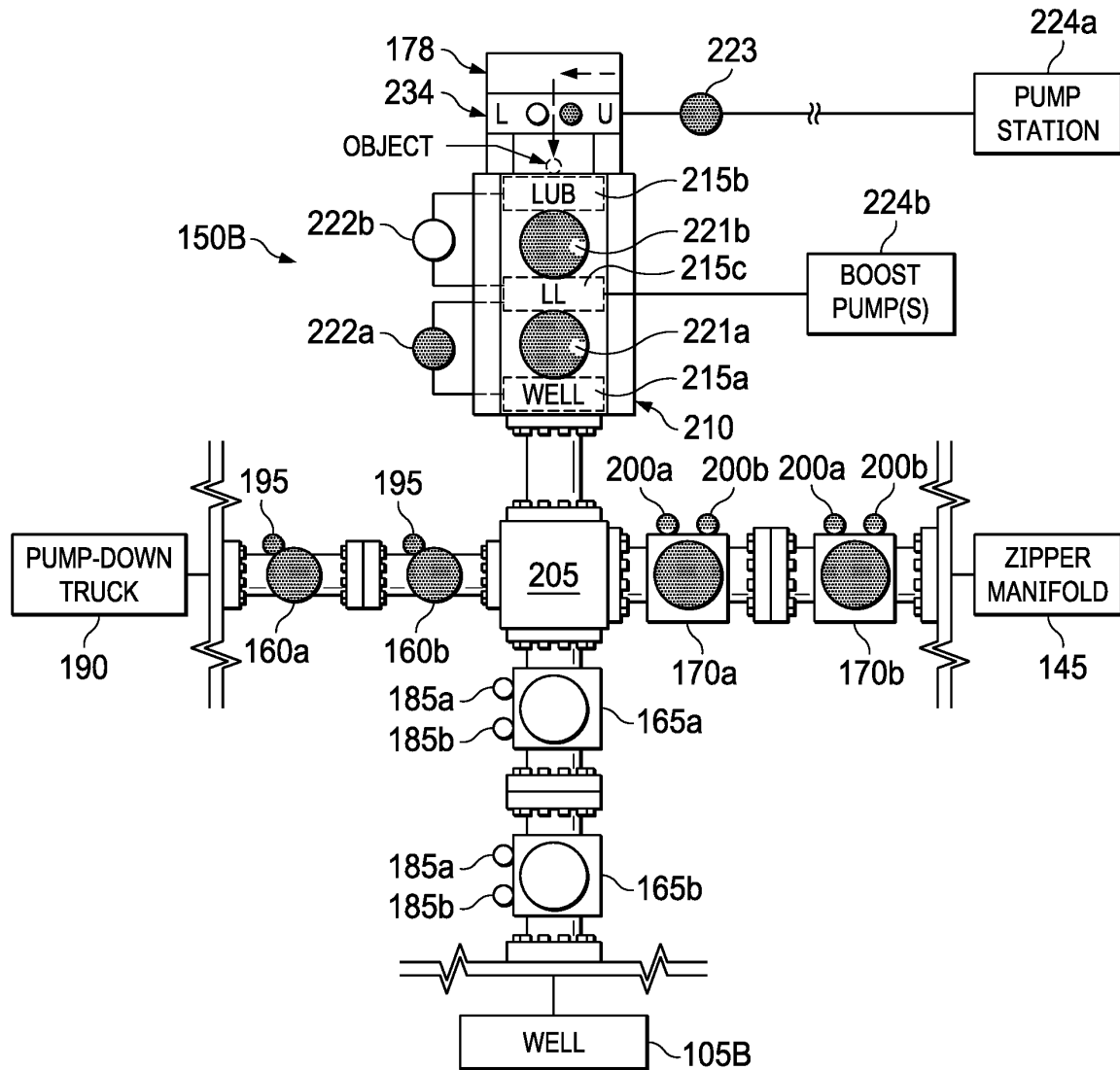


FIG. 9A

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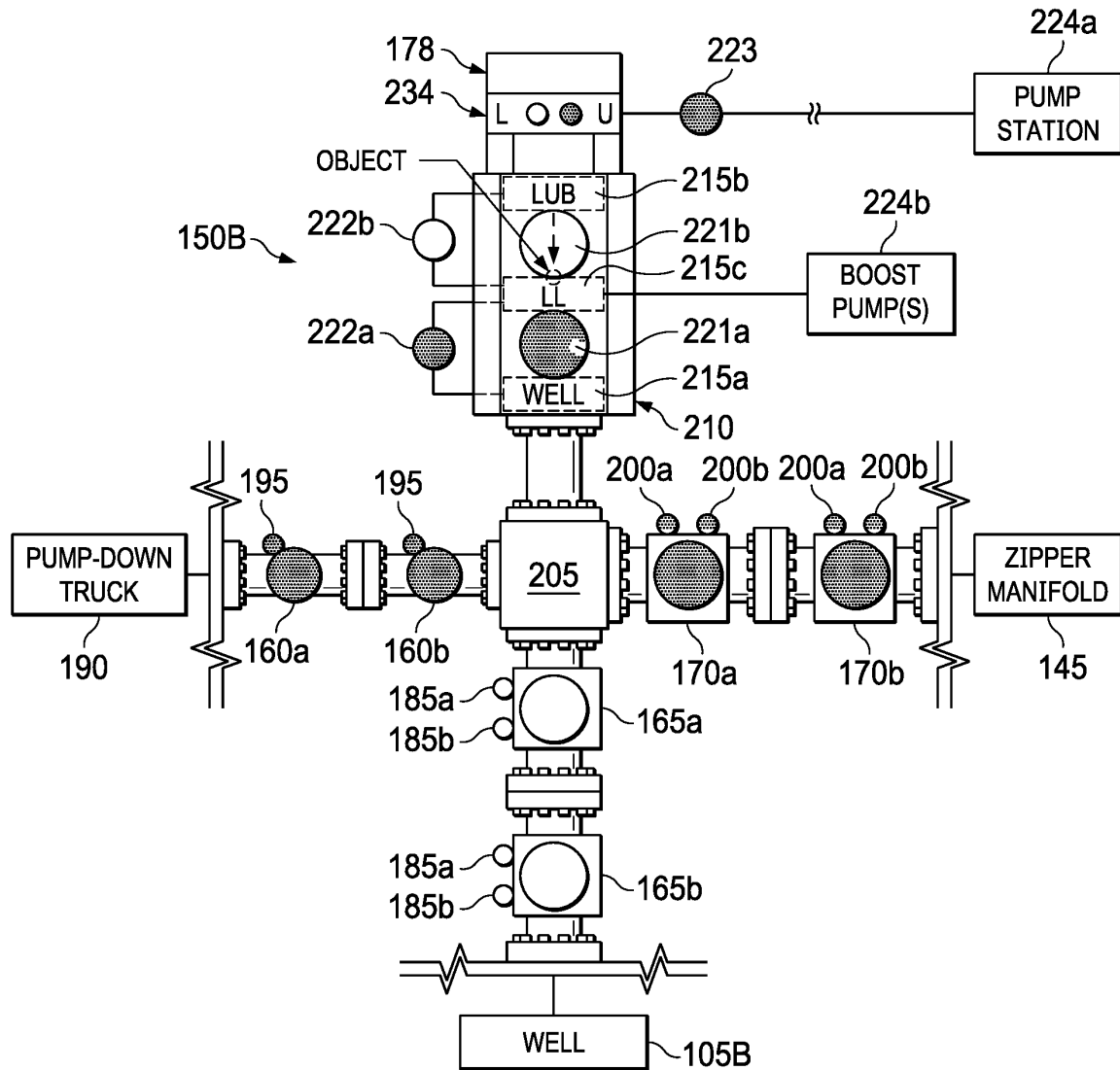


FIG. 9B

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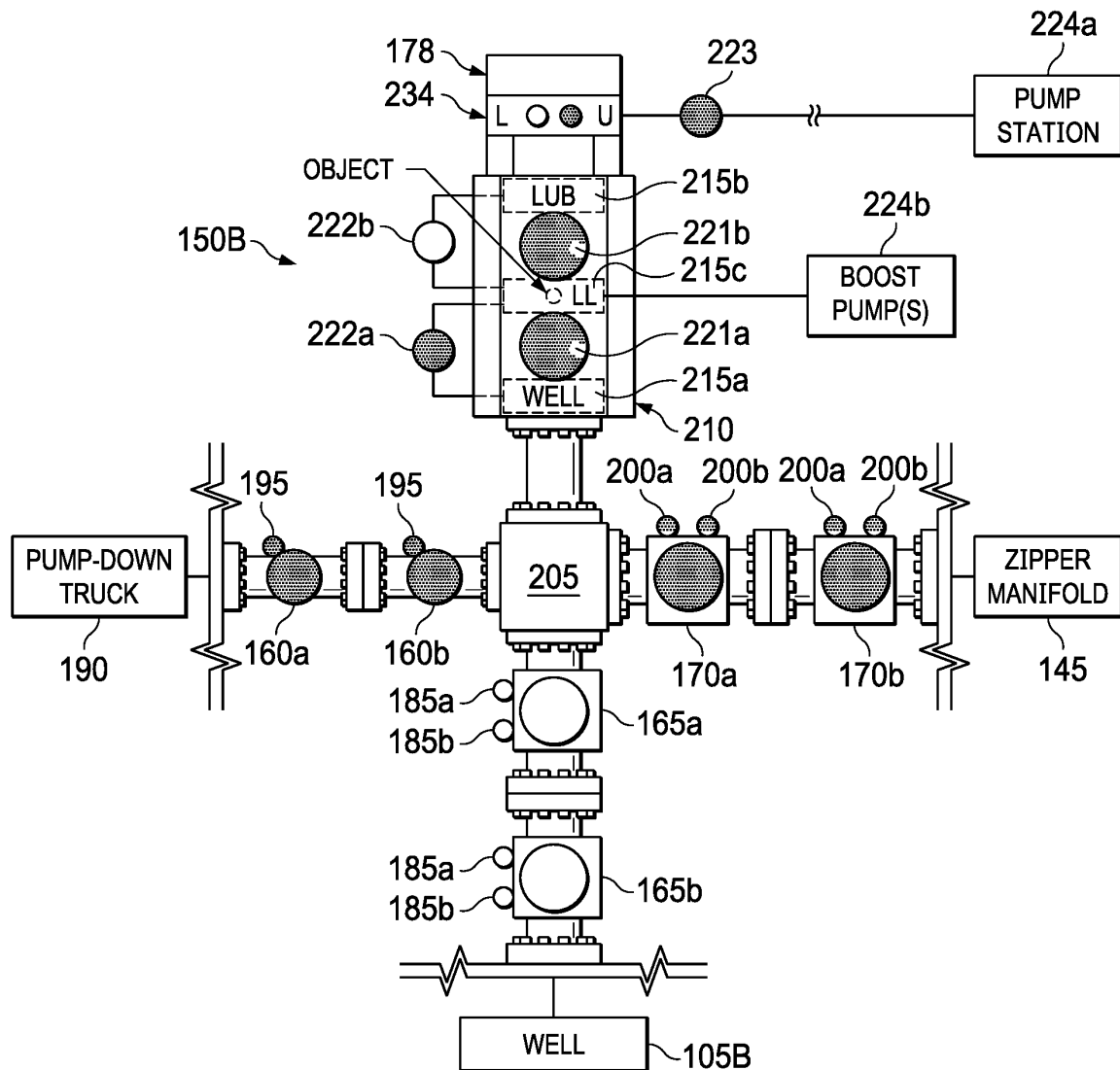


FIG. 9C

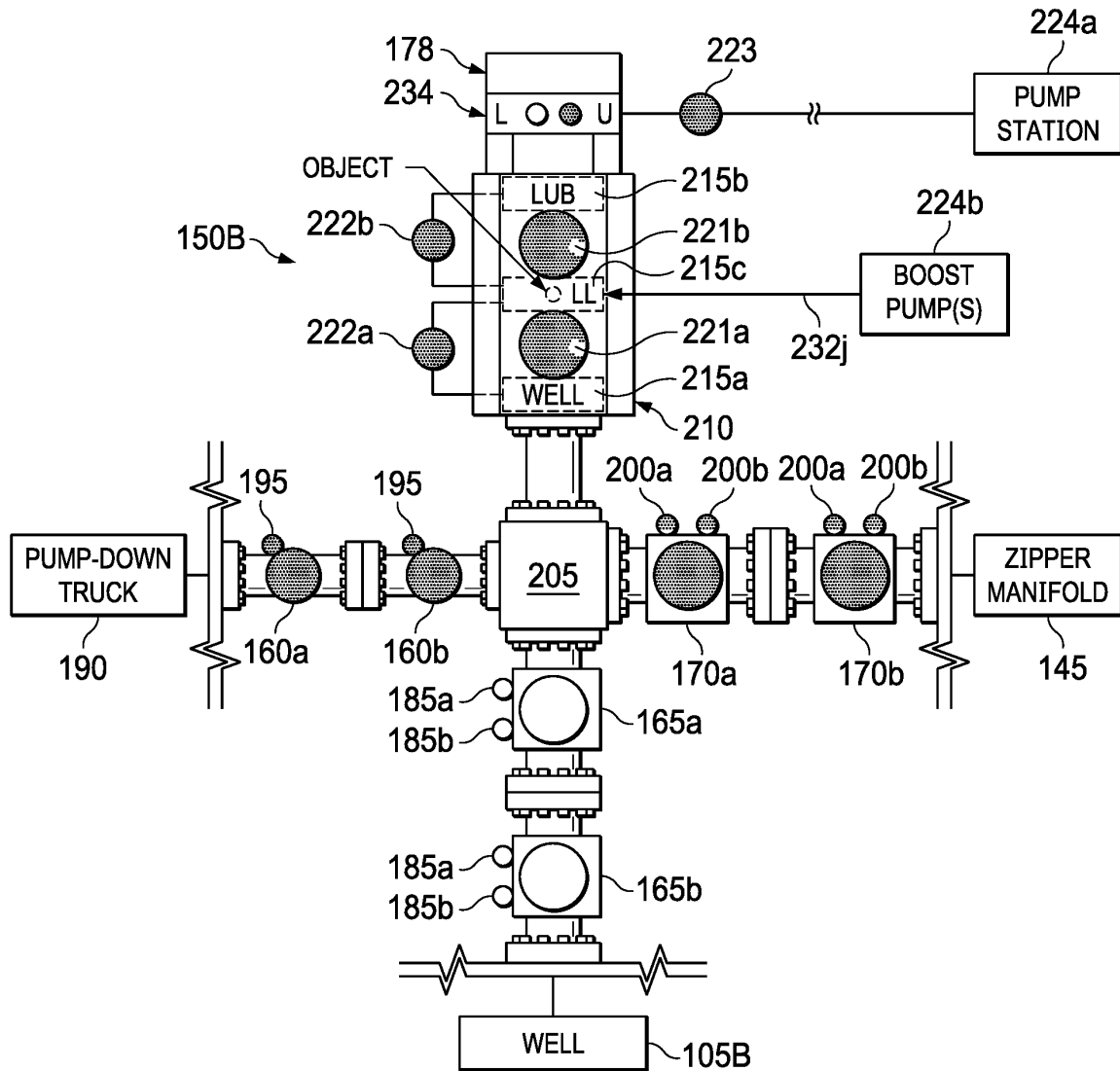


FIG. 9D

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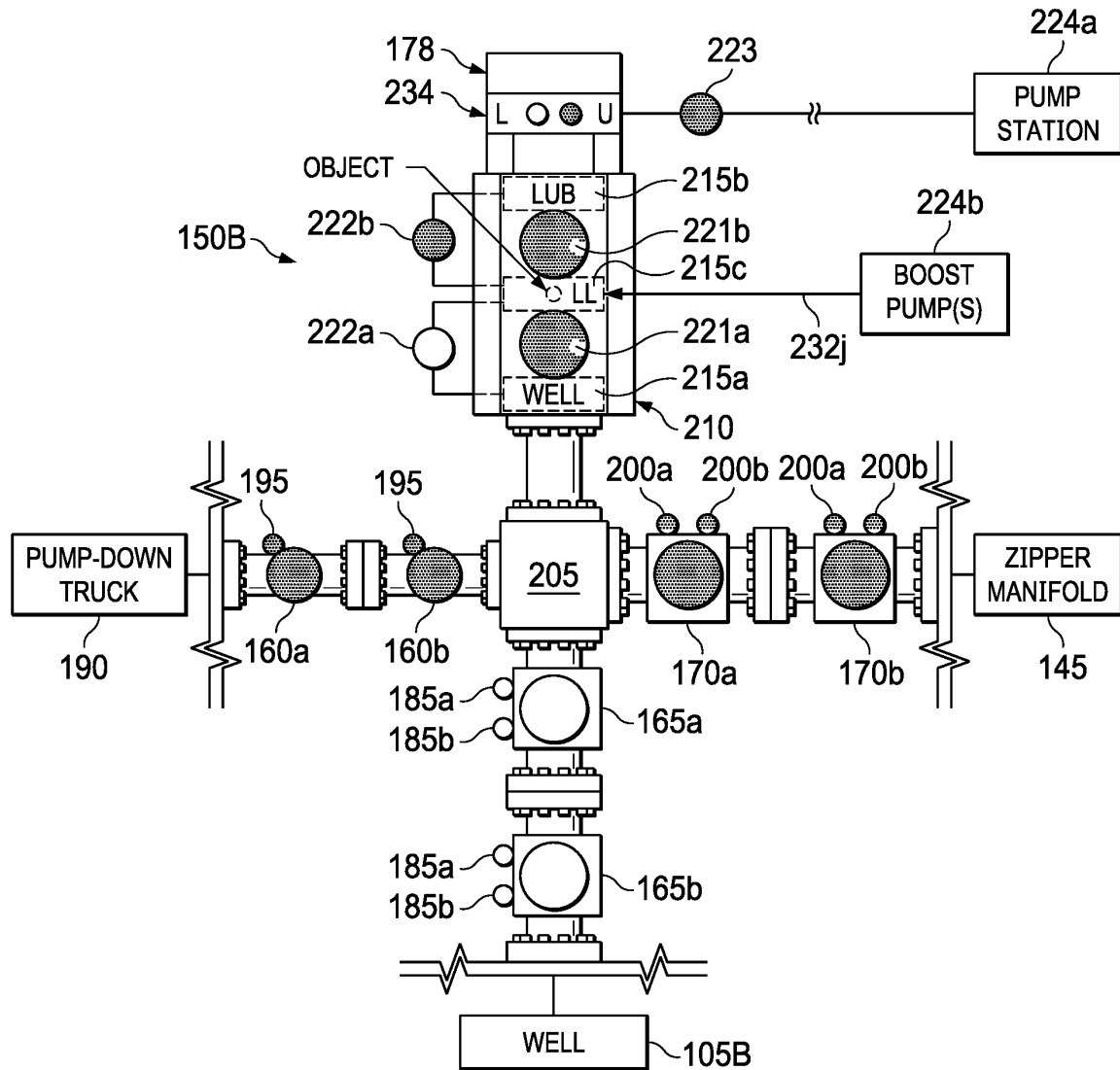


FIG. 9E

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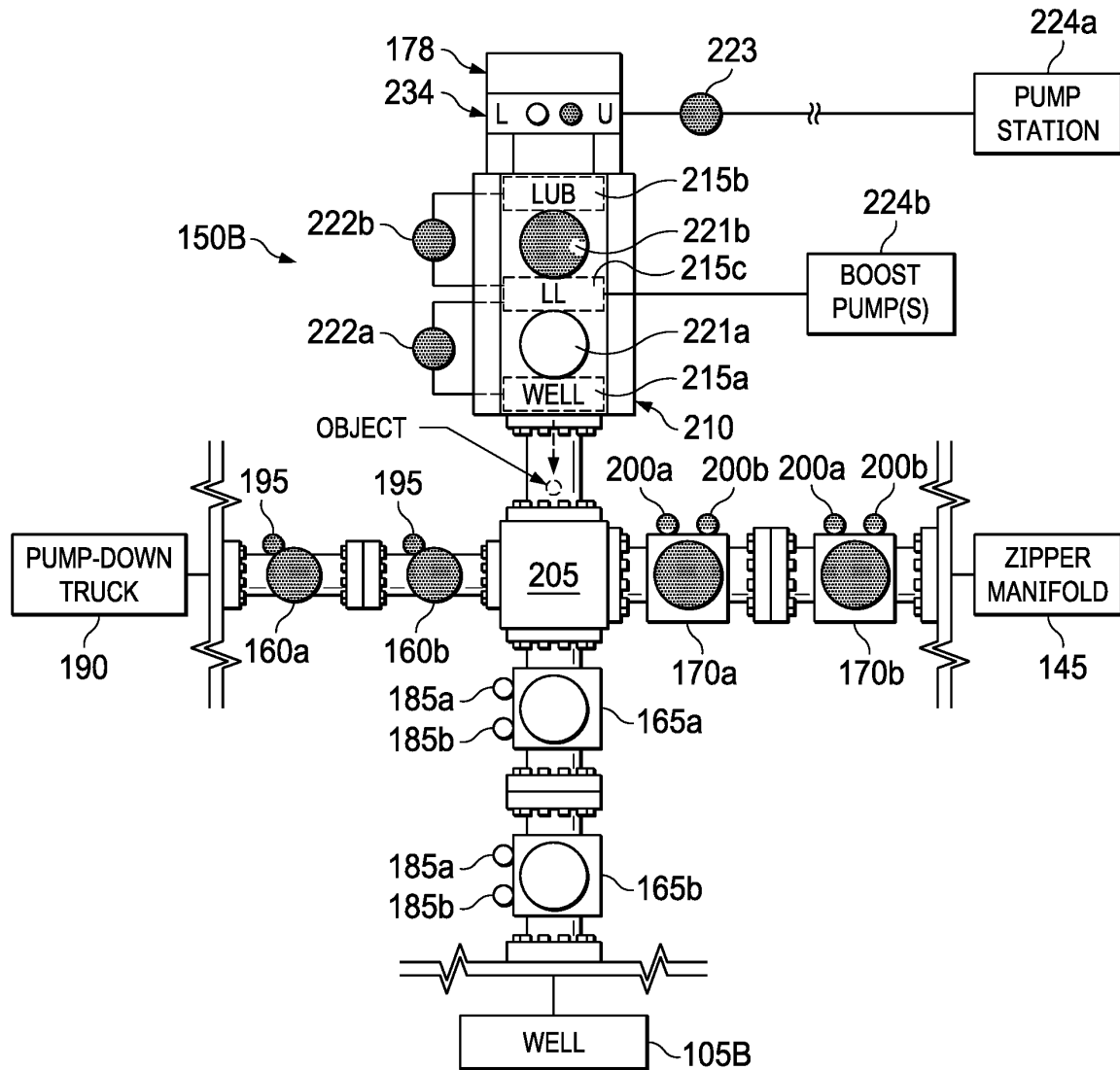


FIG. 9F

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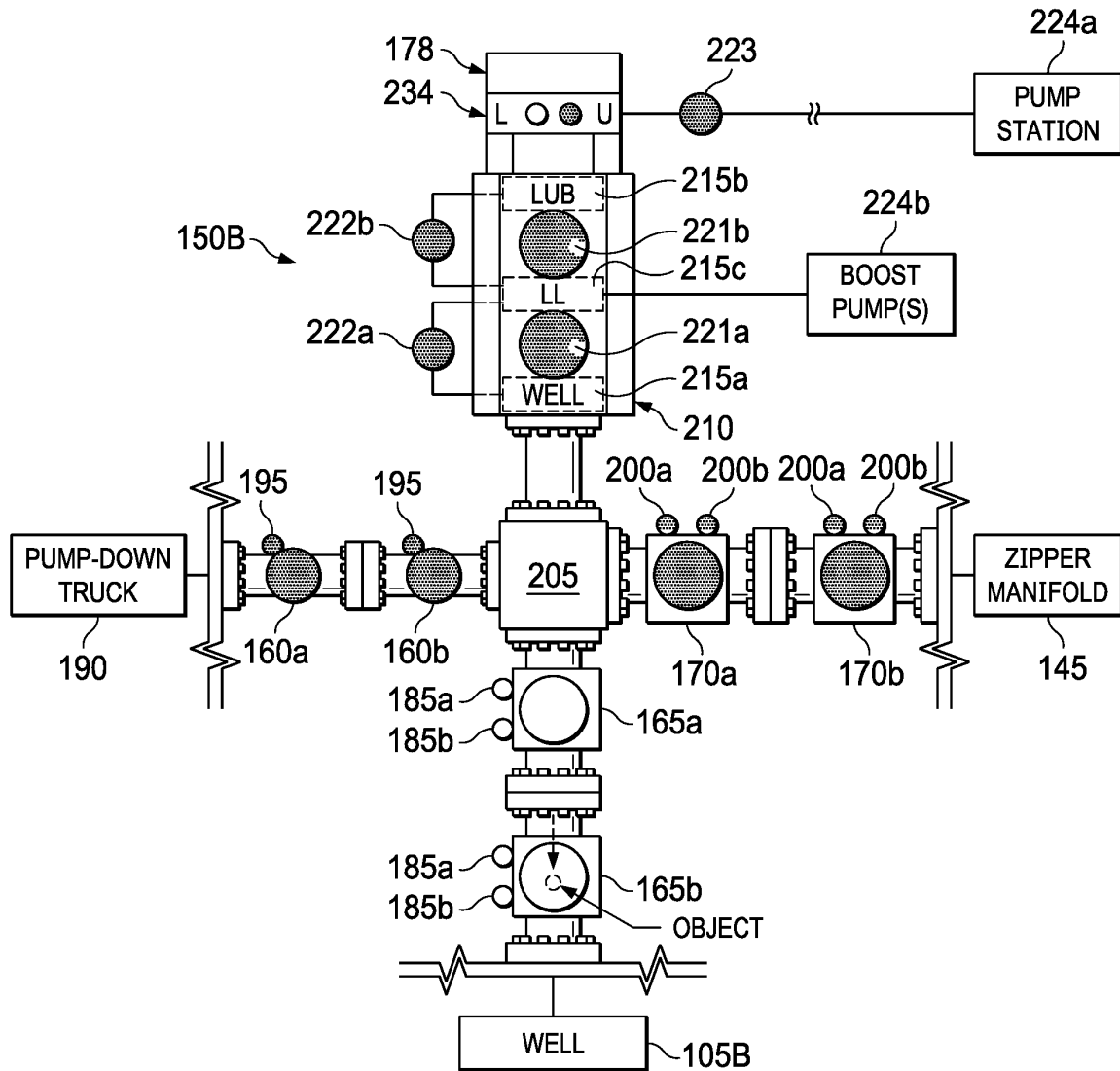


FIG. 9G

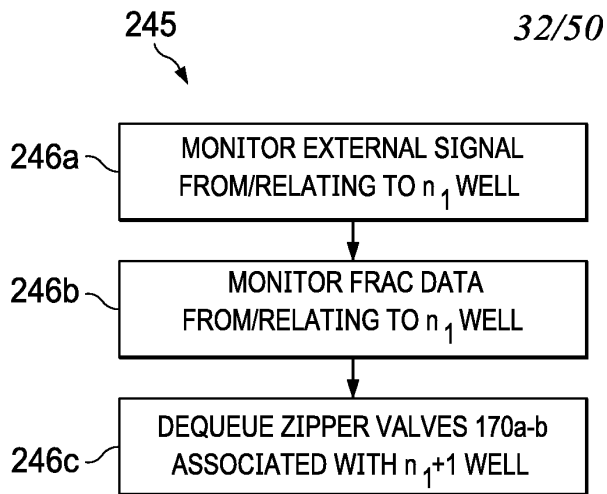


FIG. 10

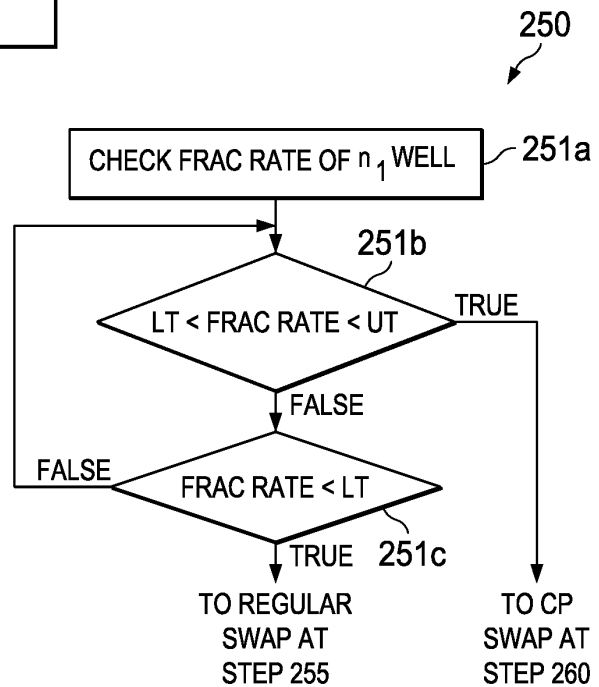


FIG. 12

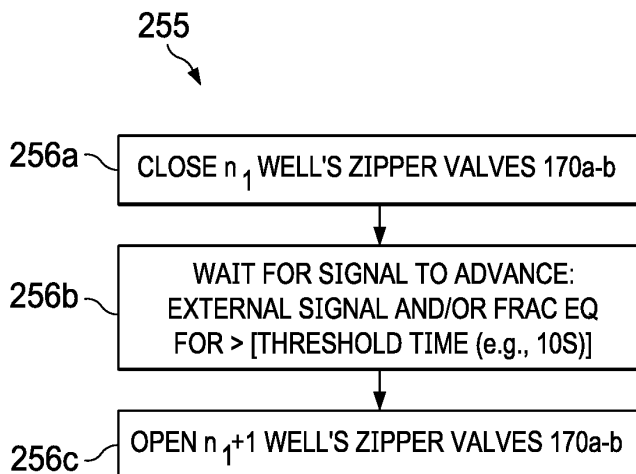
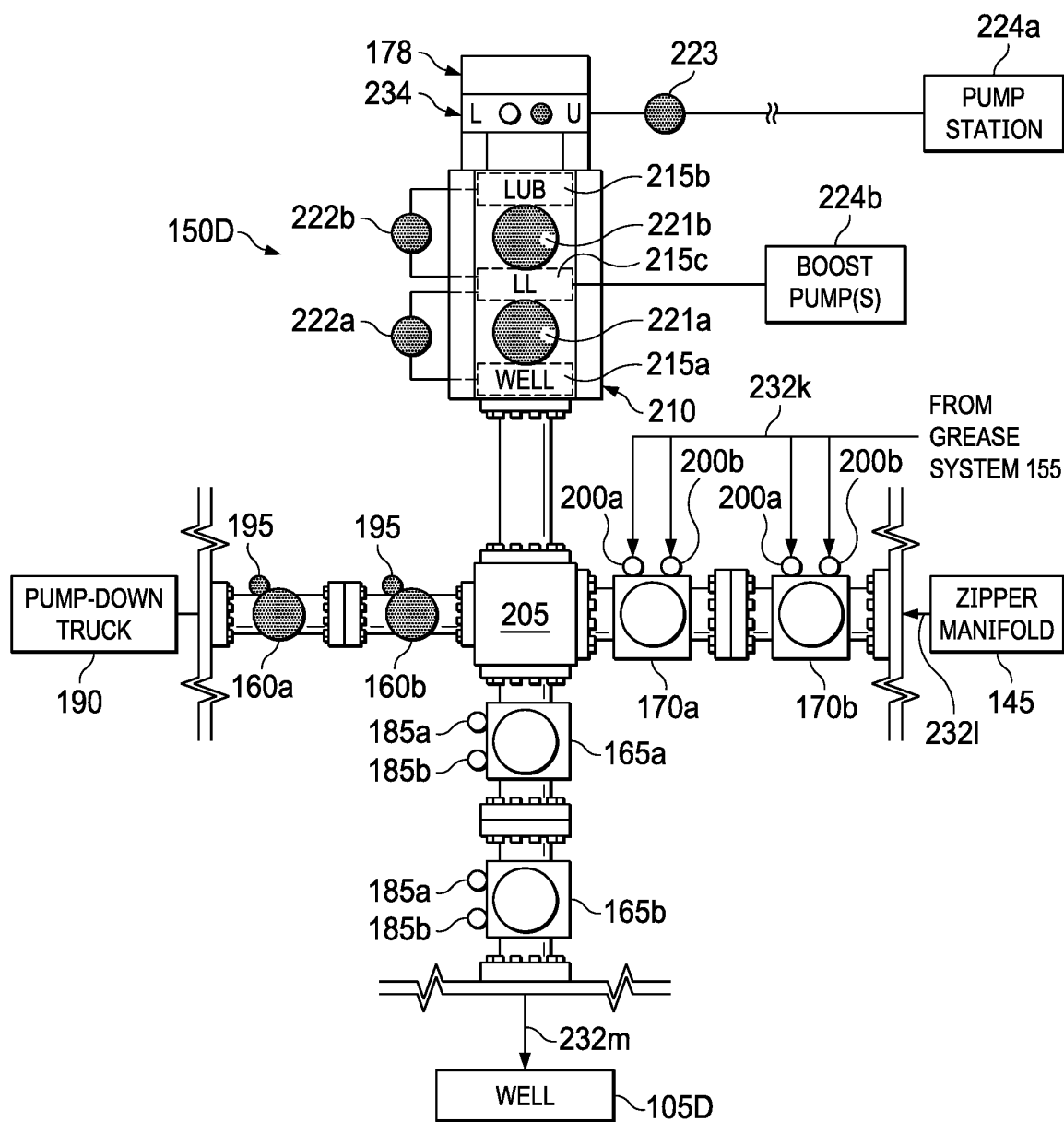


FIG. 13



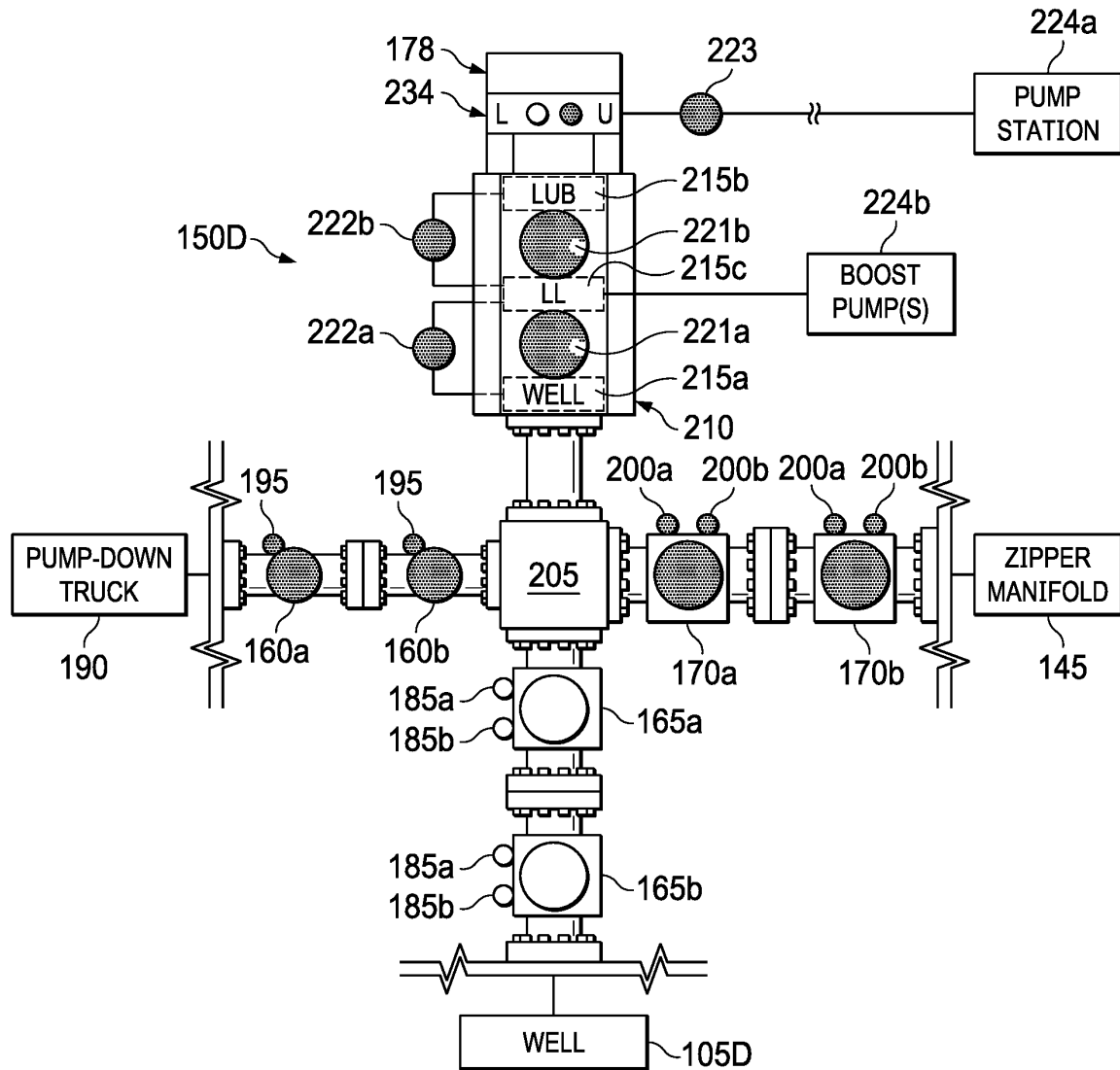


FIG. 14A

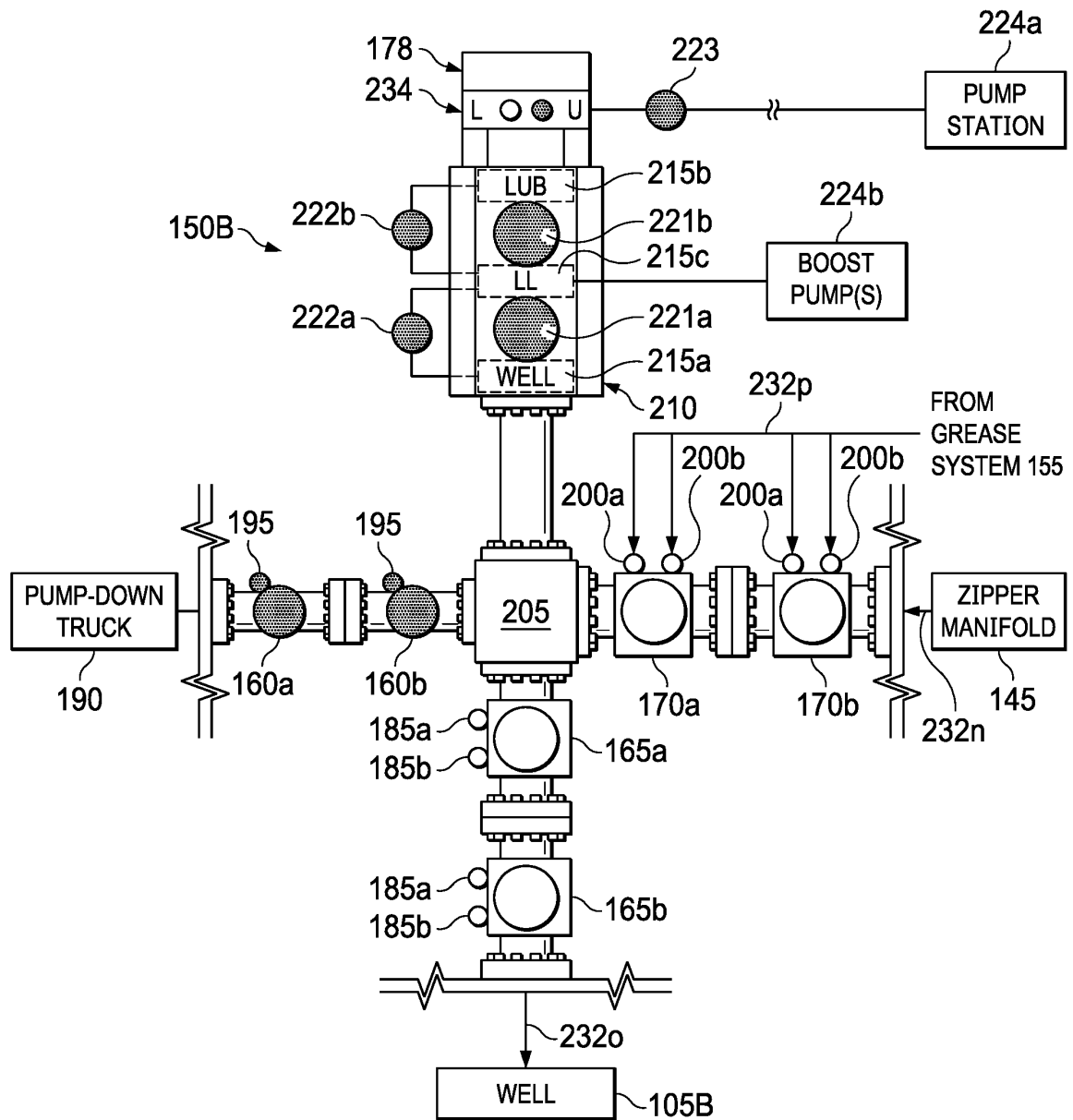


FIG. 14B

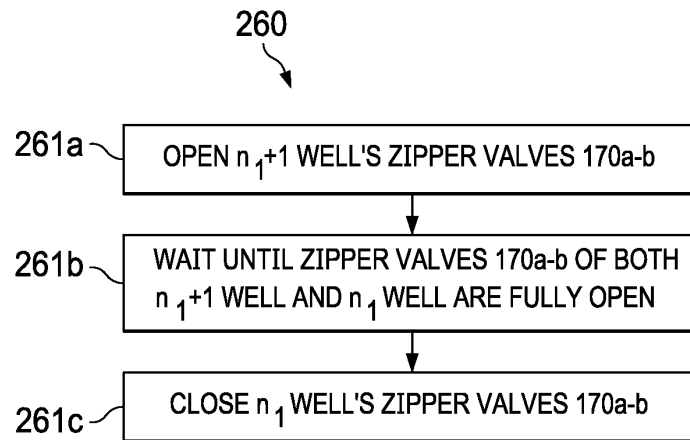


FIG. 15

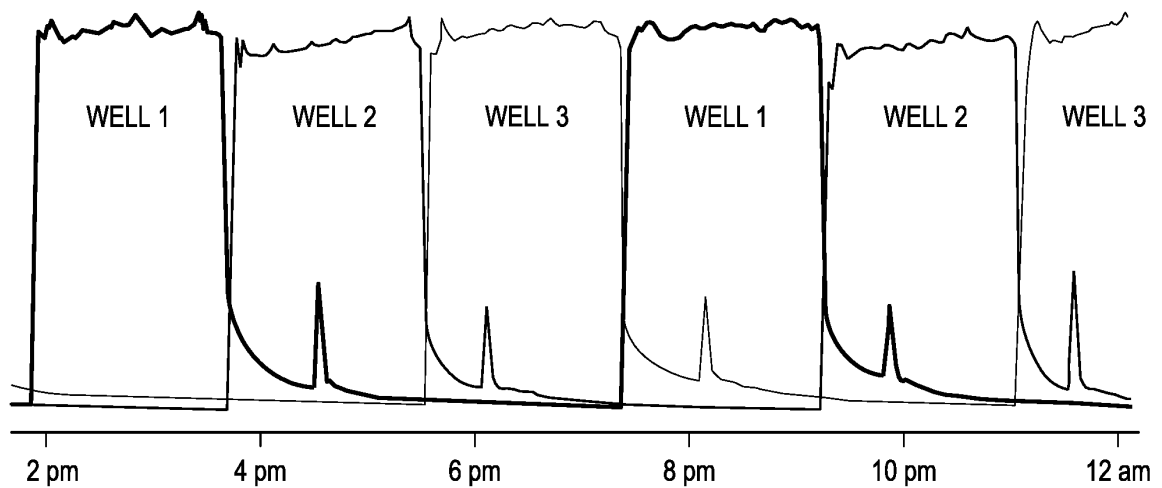


FIG. 16D

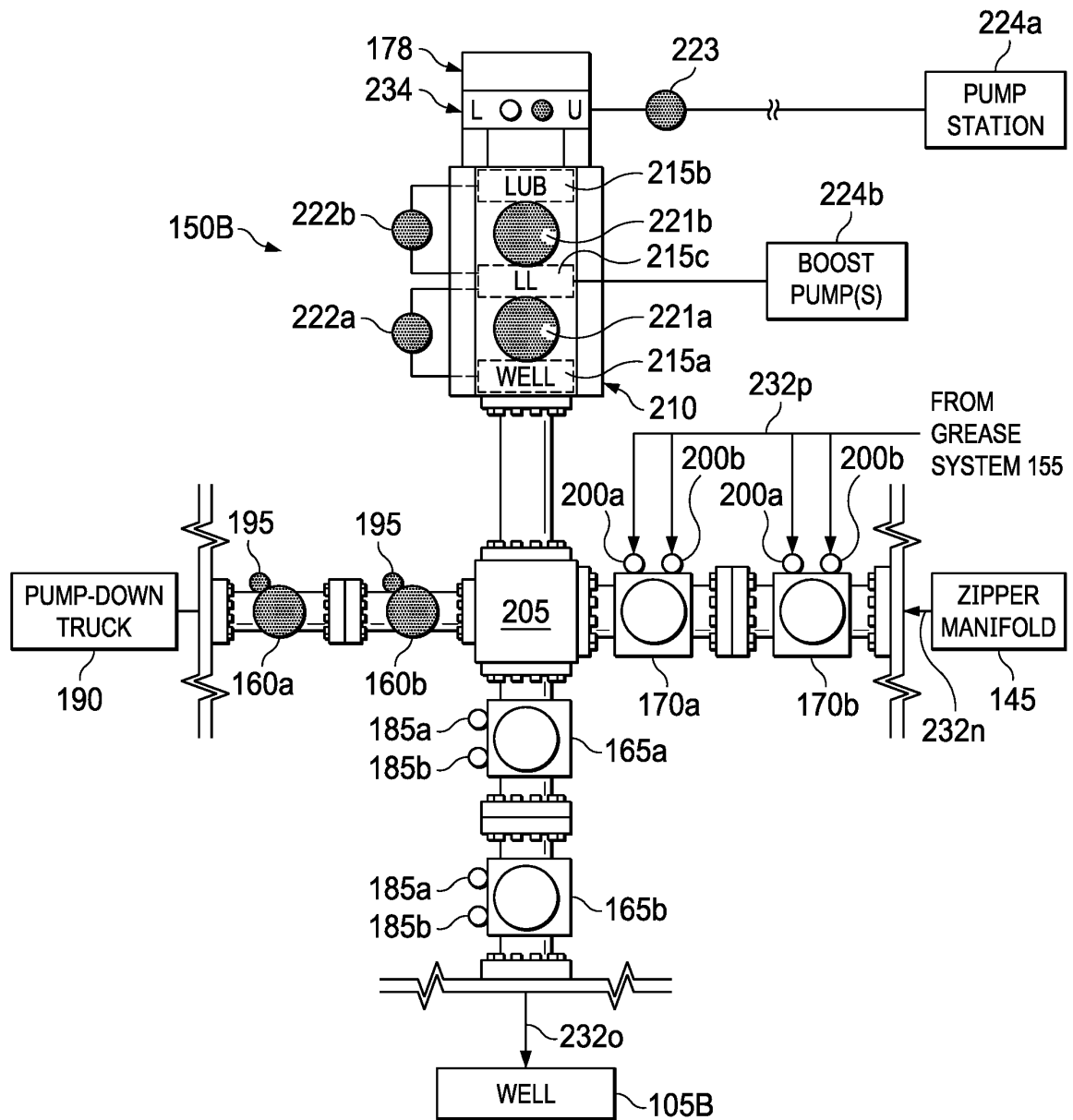


FIG. 16A

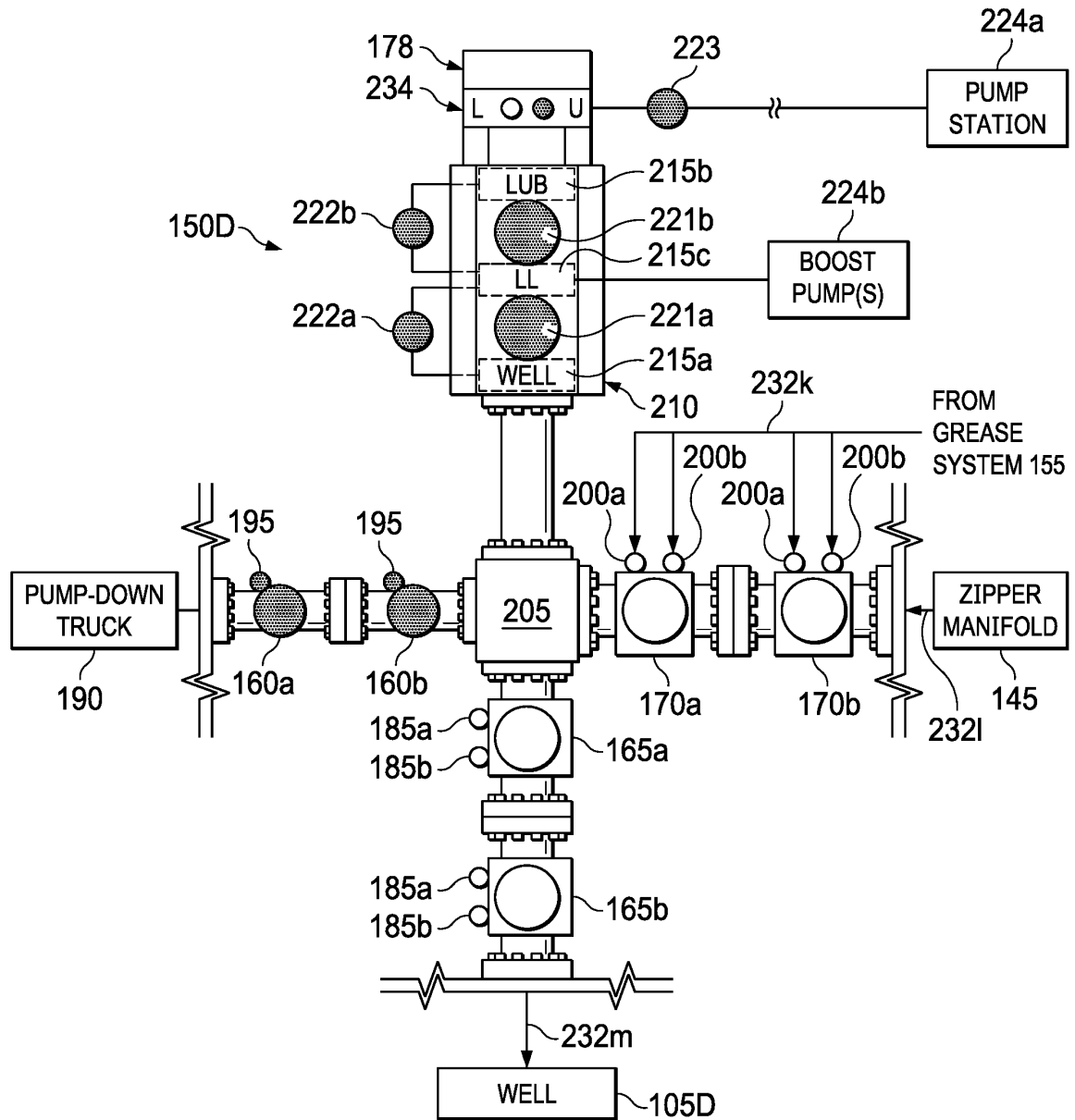


FIG. 16B

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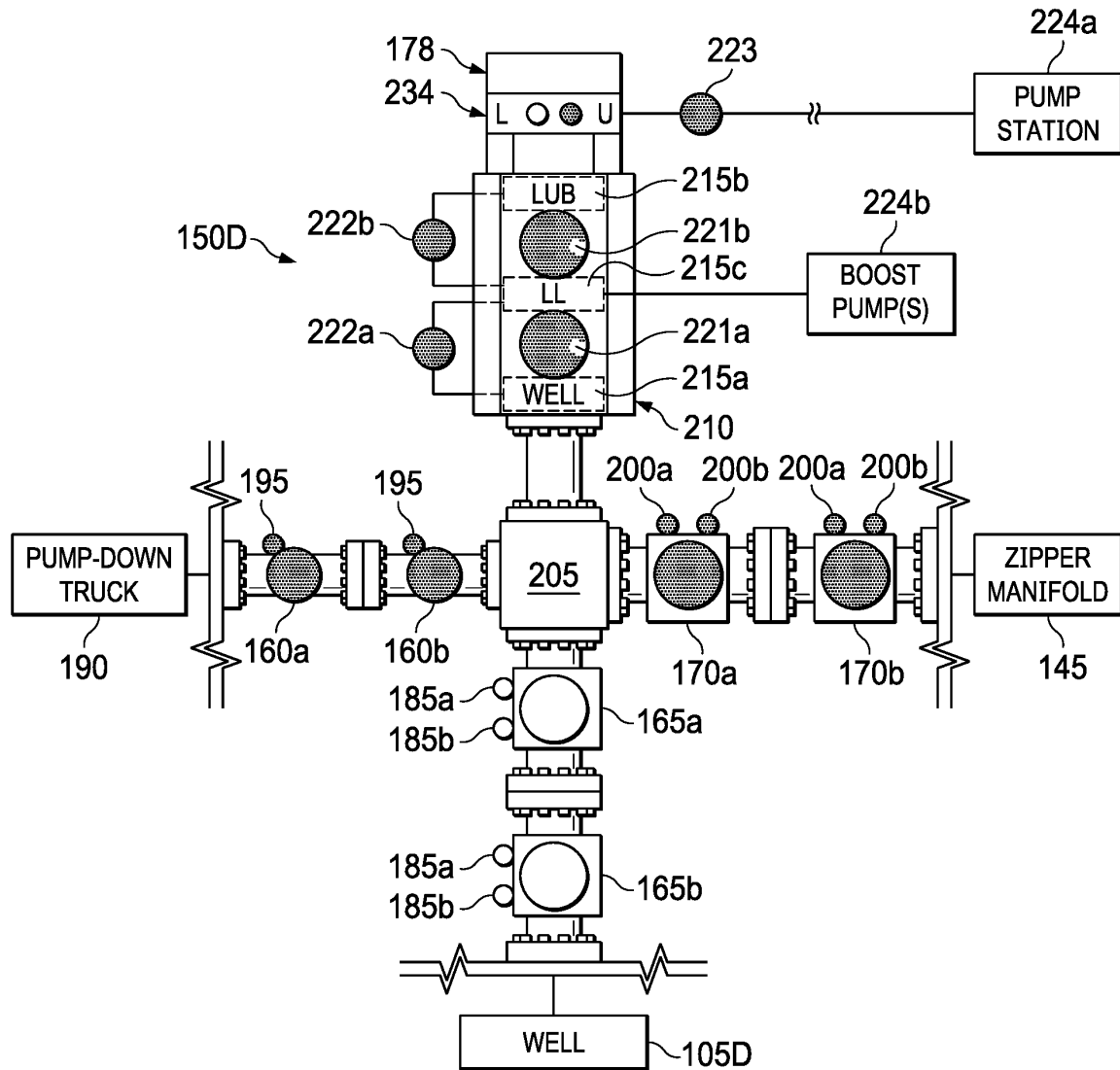
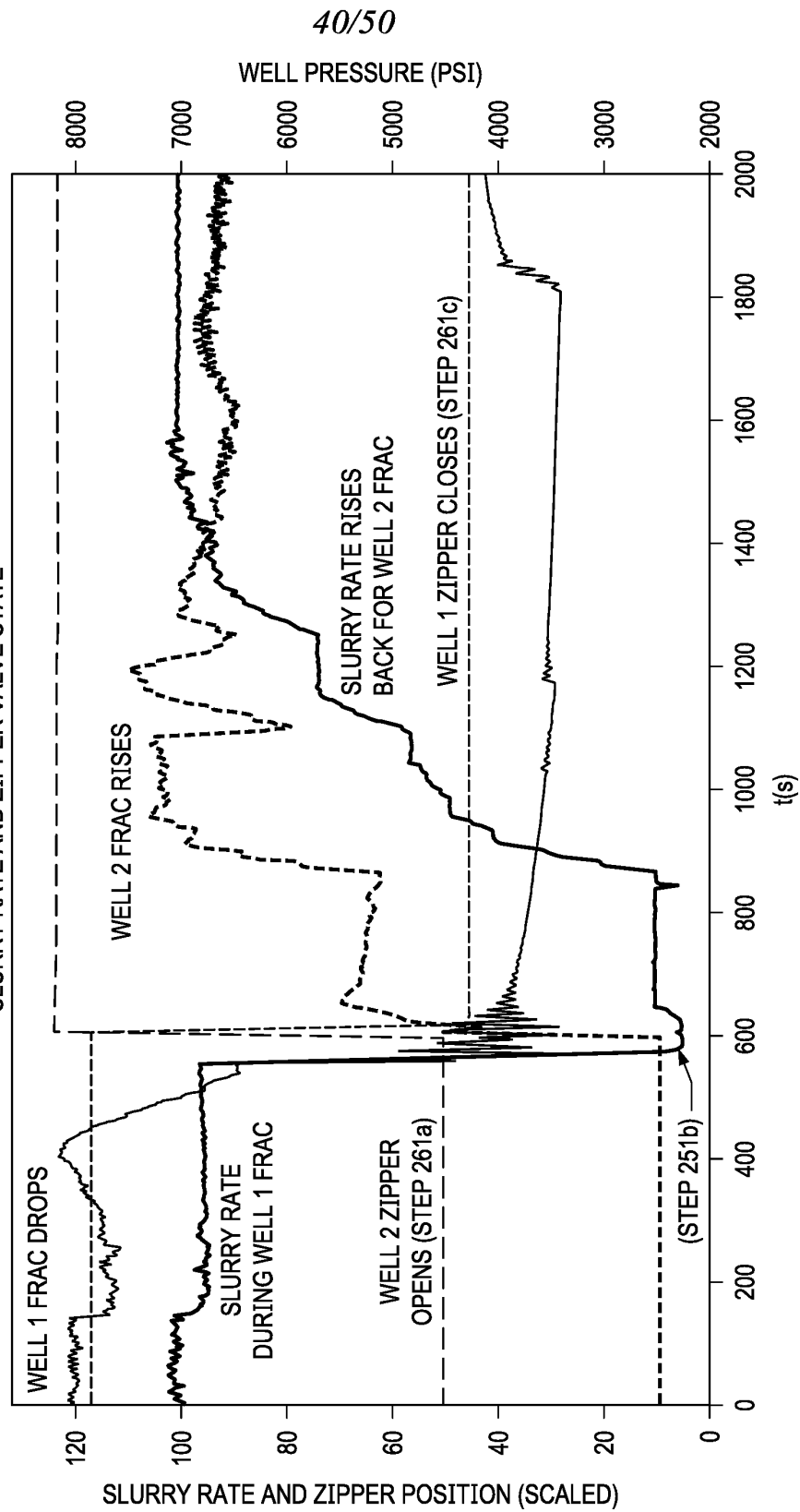


FIG. 16C

FIG. 16E

CONTINUOUS PUMP SWAP WITH
SLURRY RATE AND ZIPPER VALVE STATE

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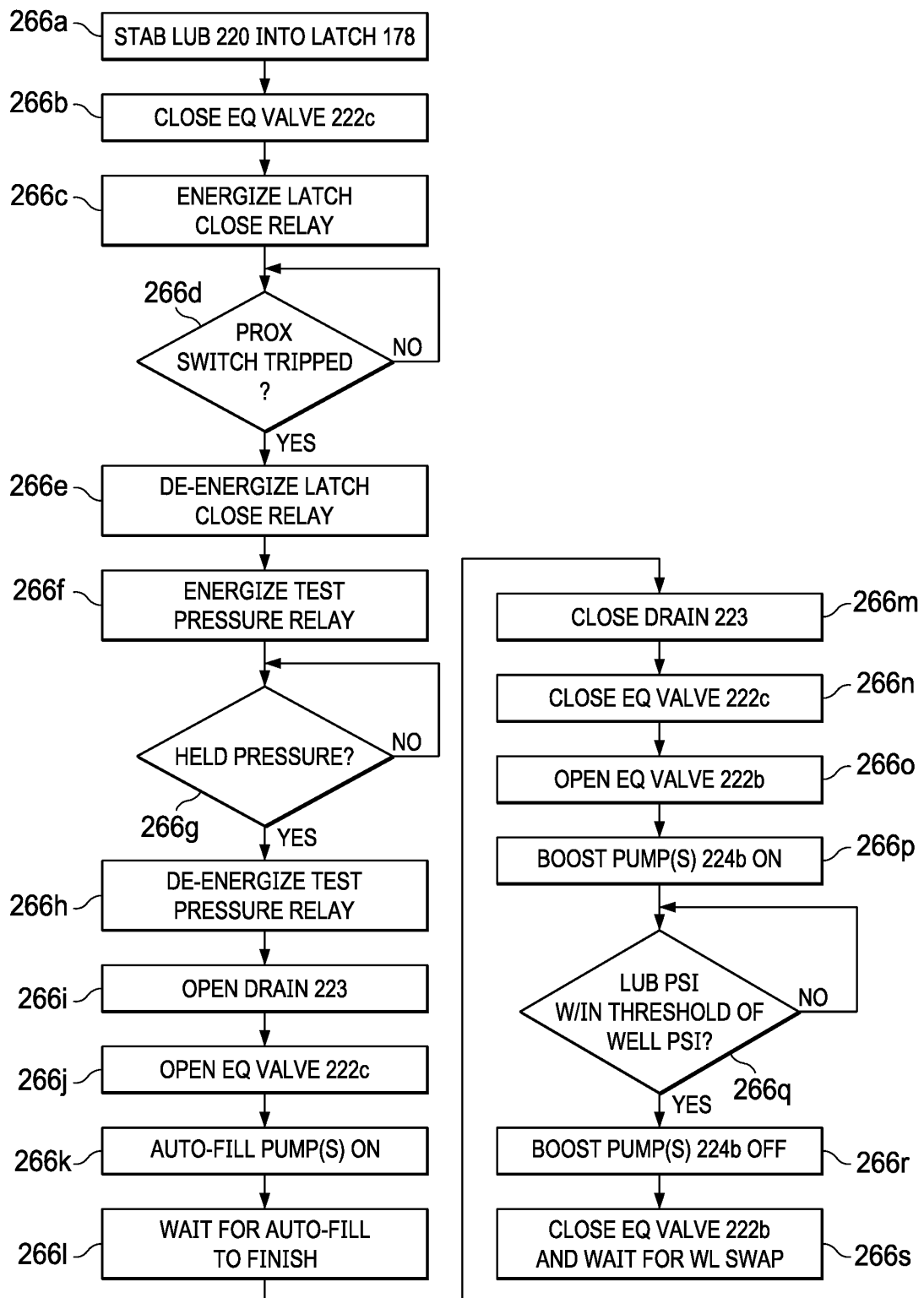
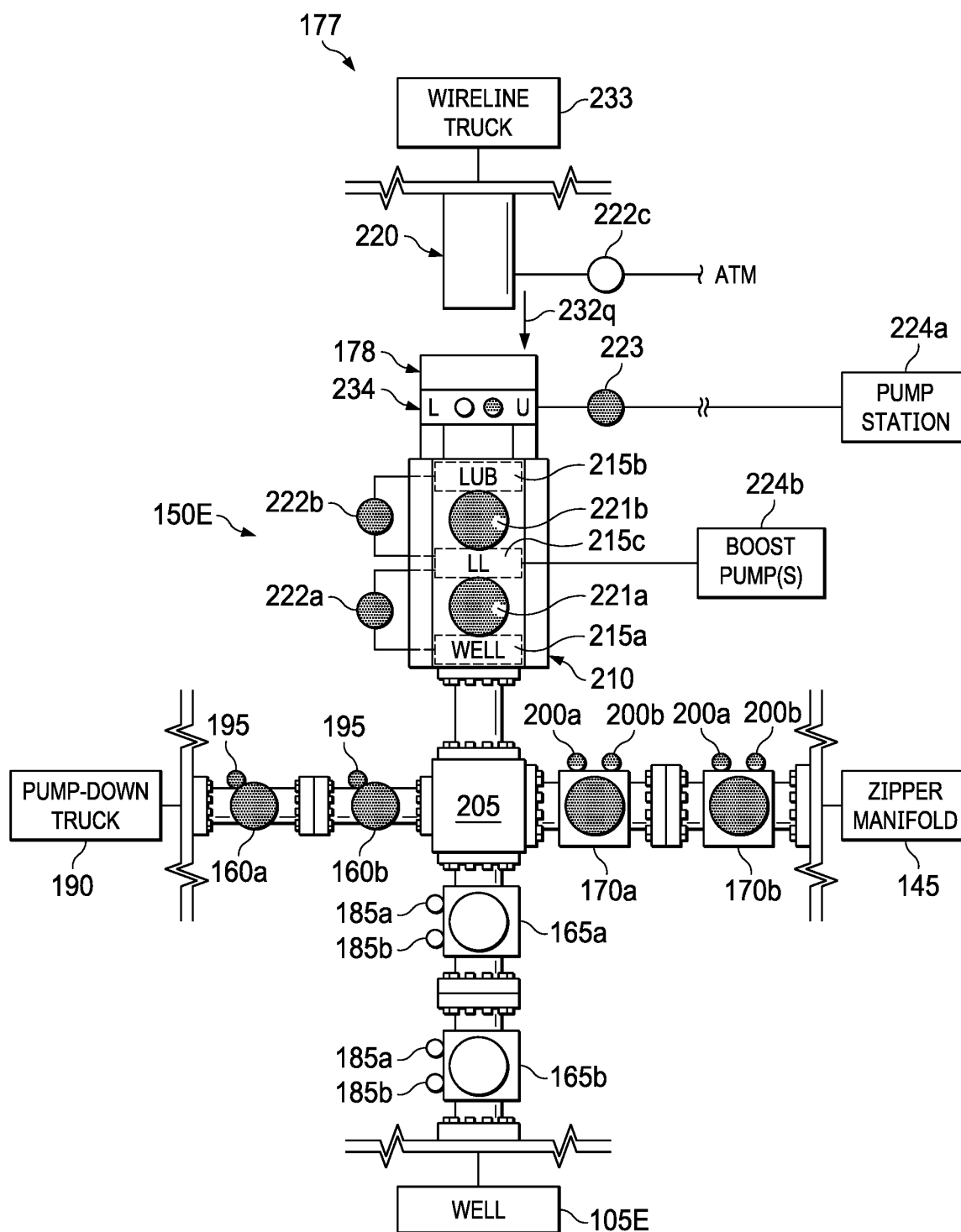


FIG. 17



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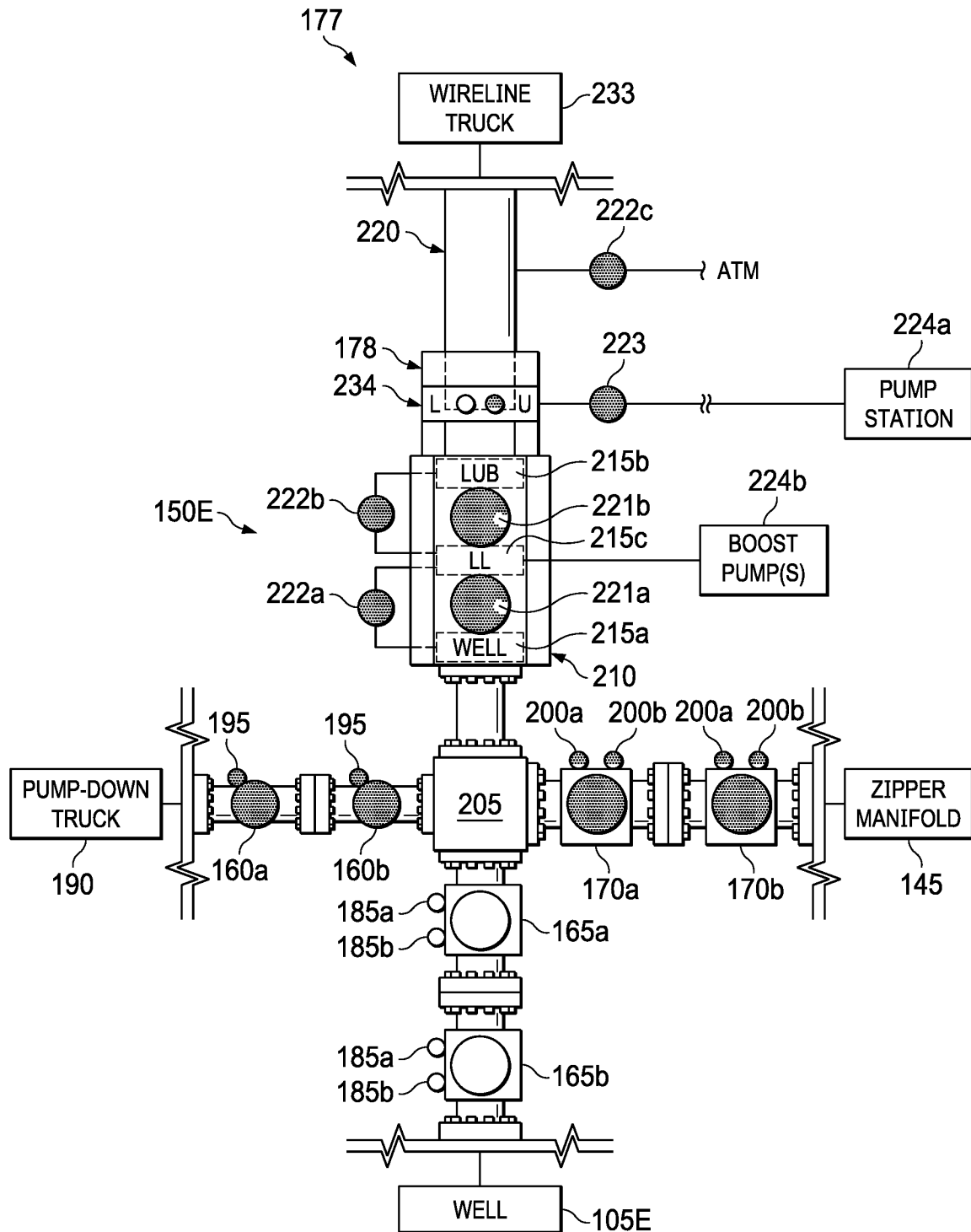


FIG. 18B

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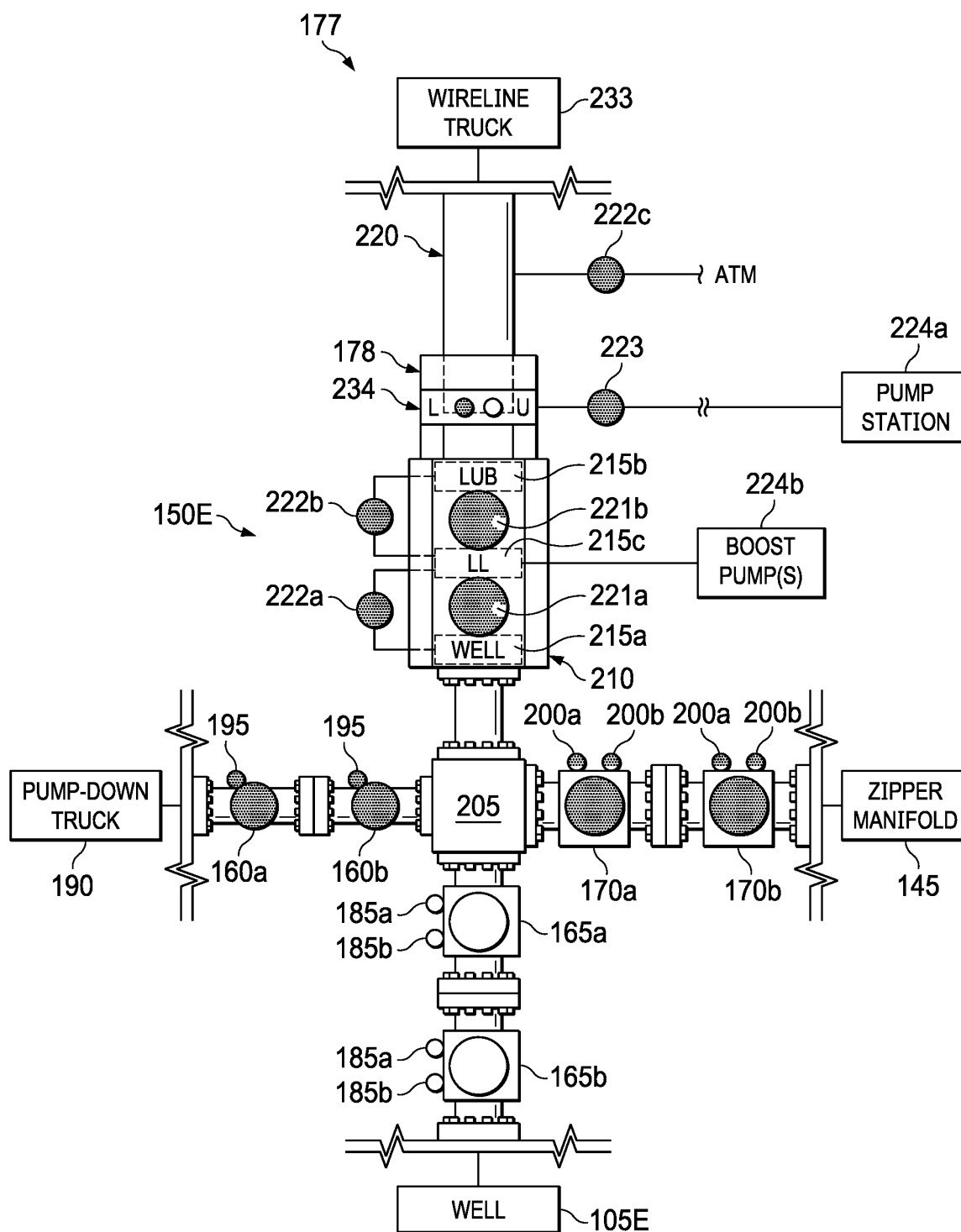


FIG. 18C

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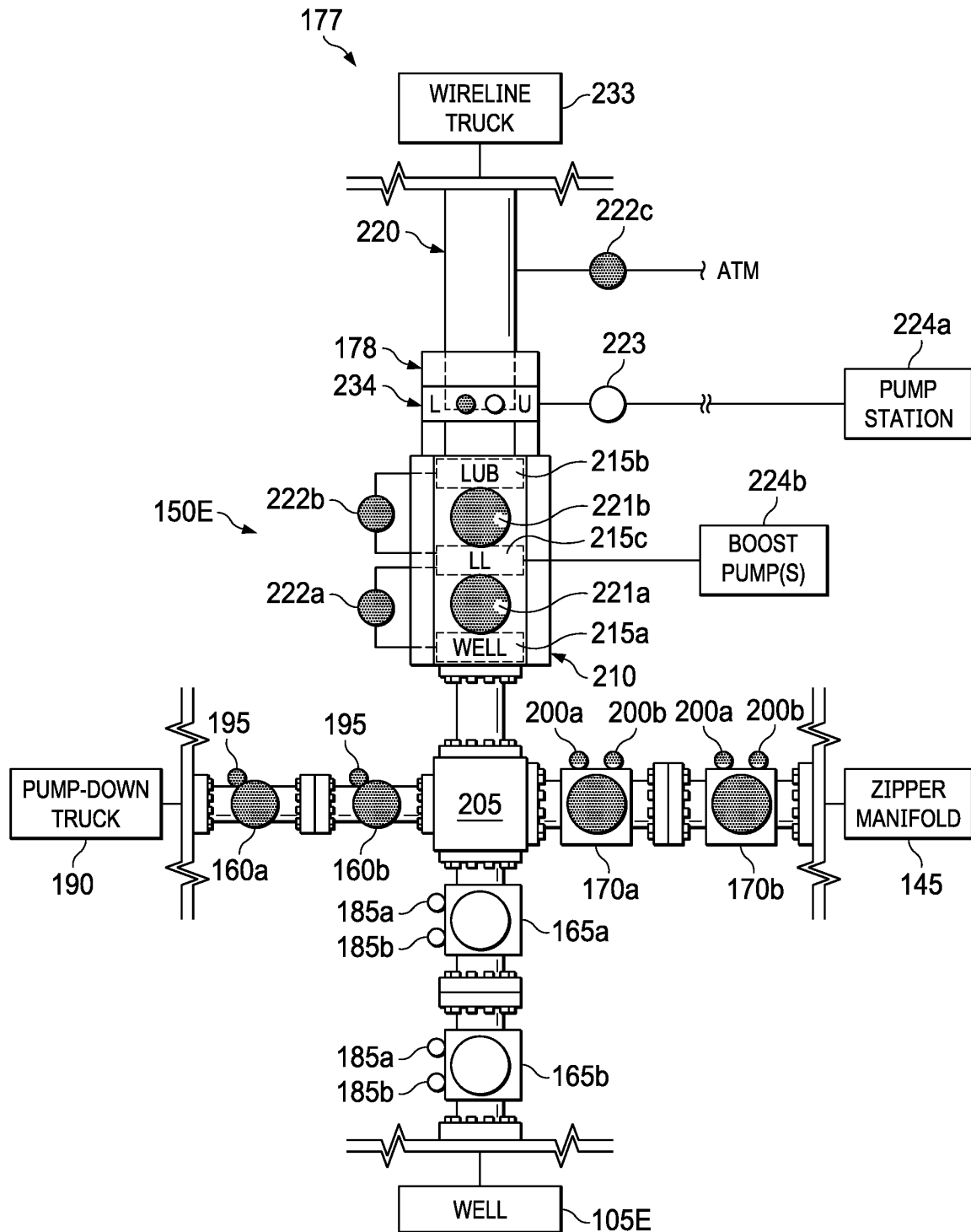


FIG. 18D

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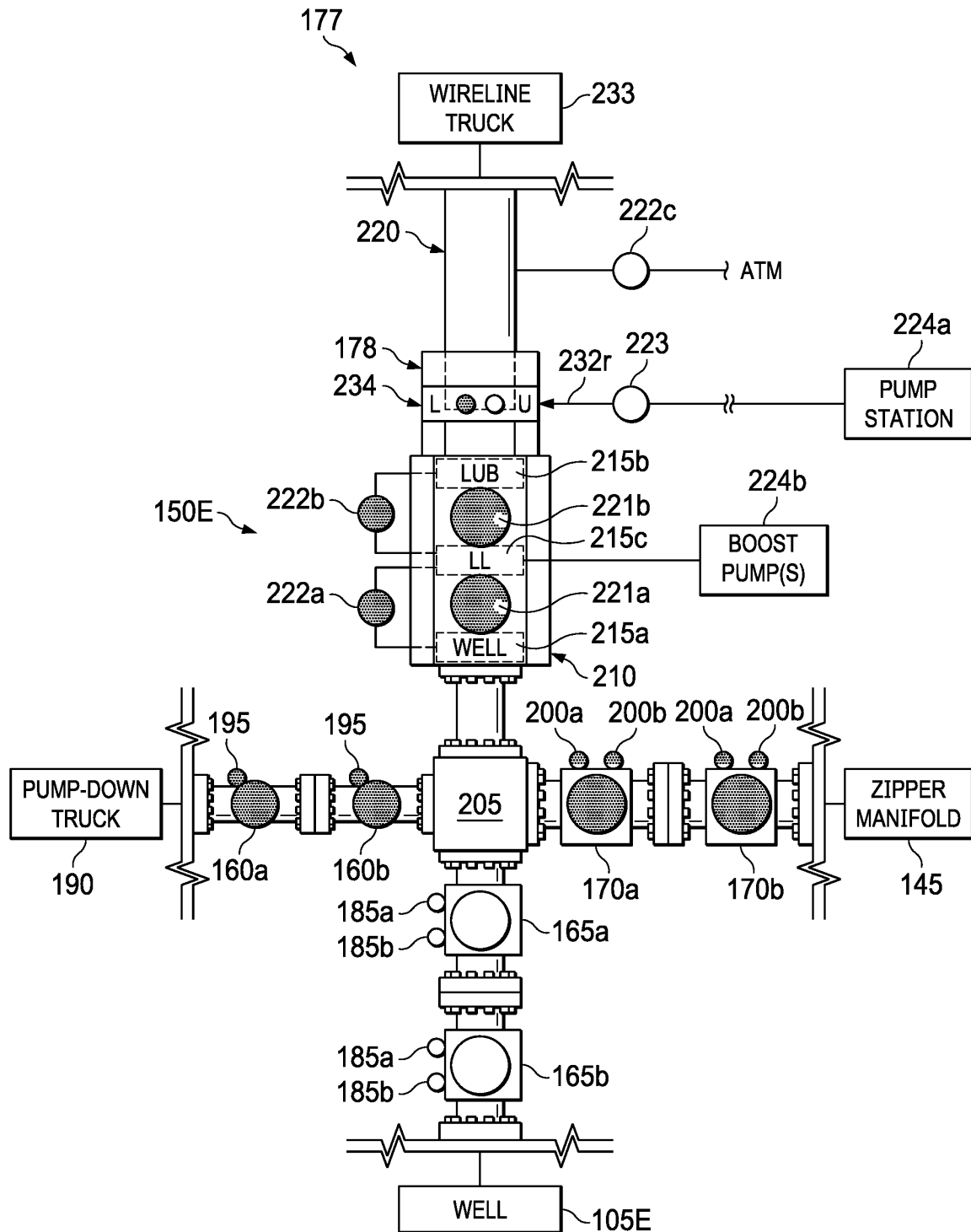


FIG. 18E

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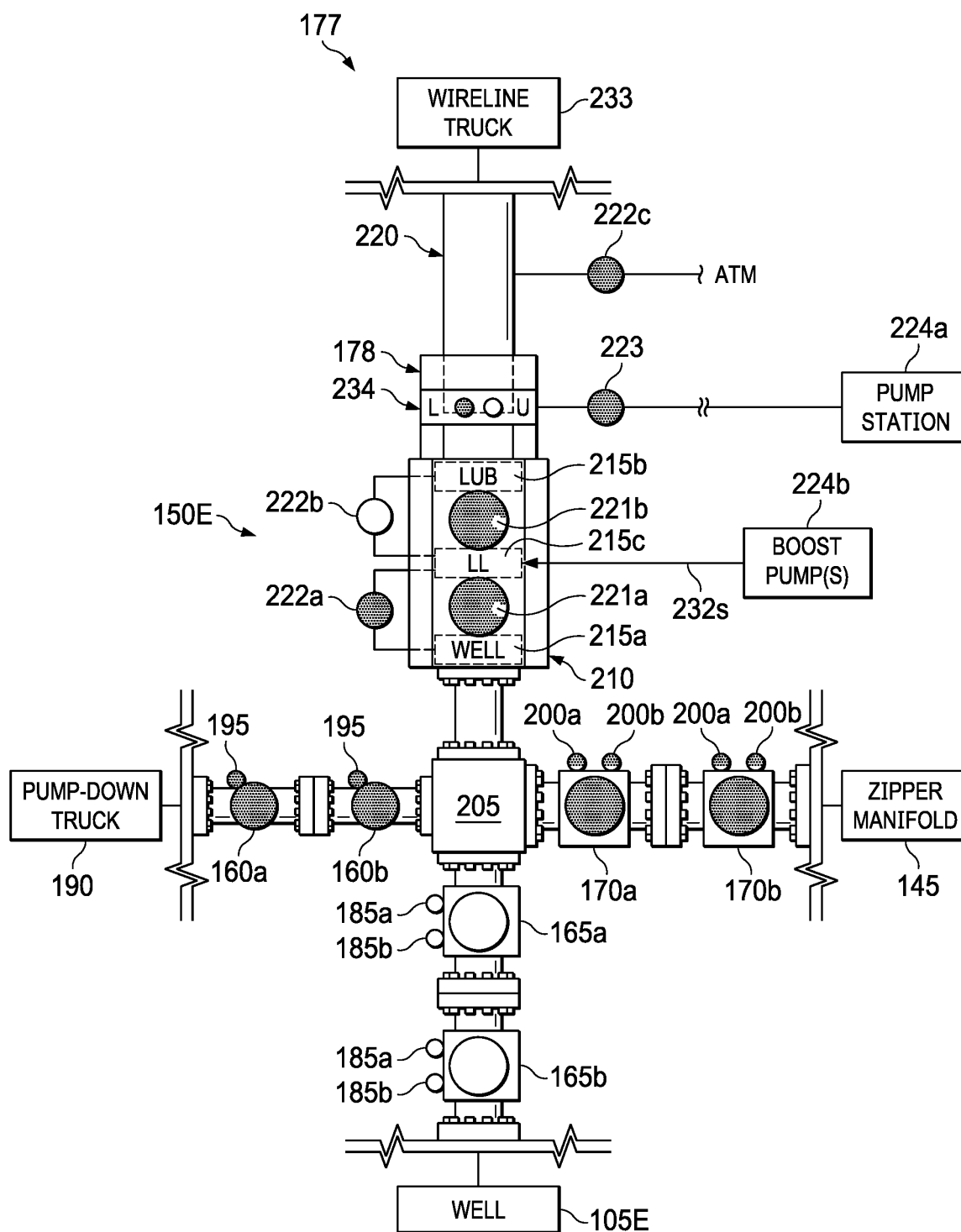


FIG. 18F

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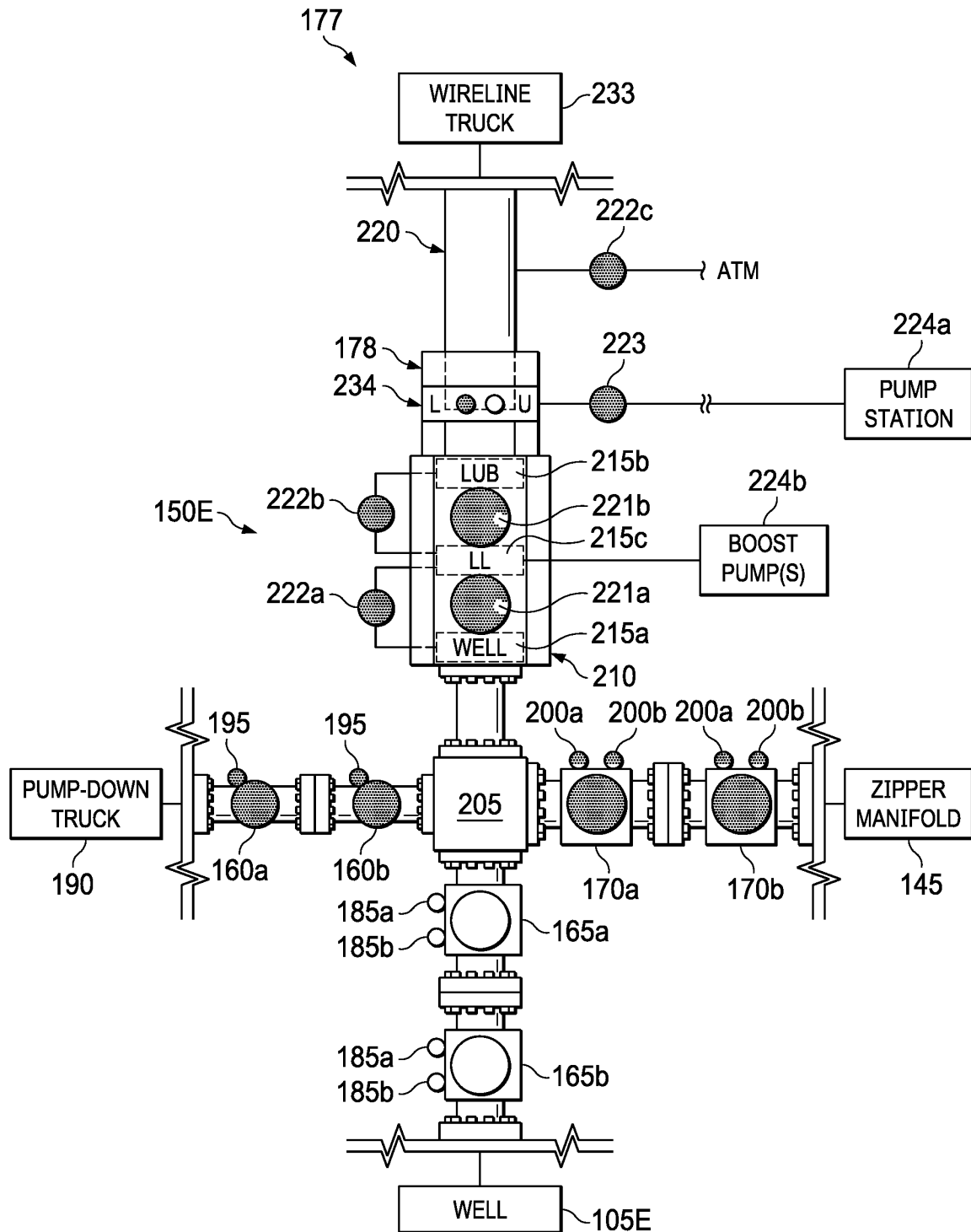
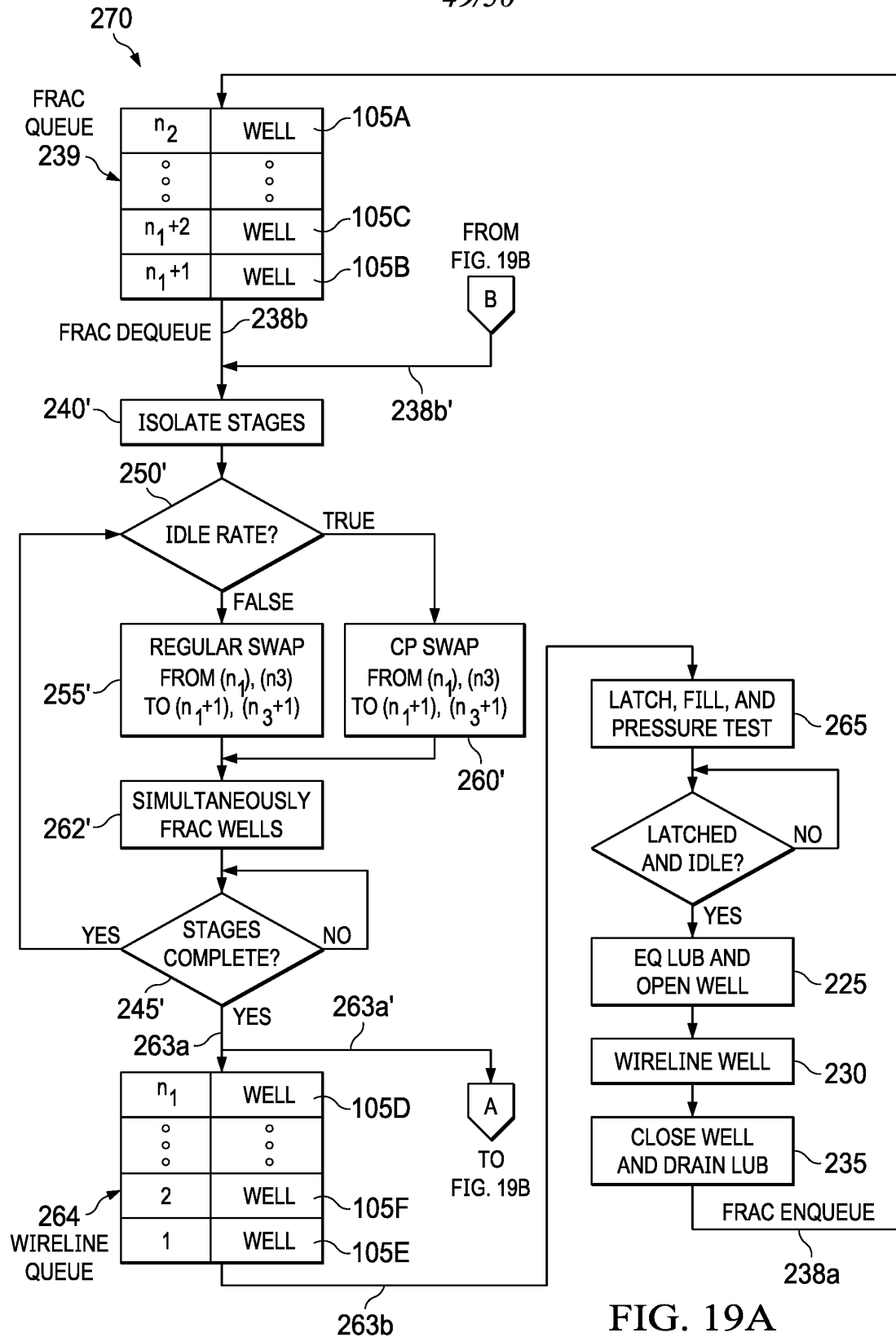
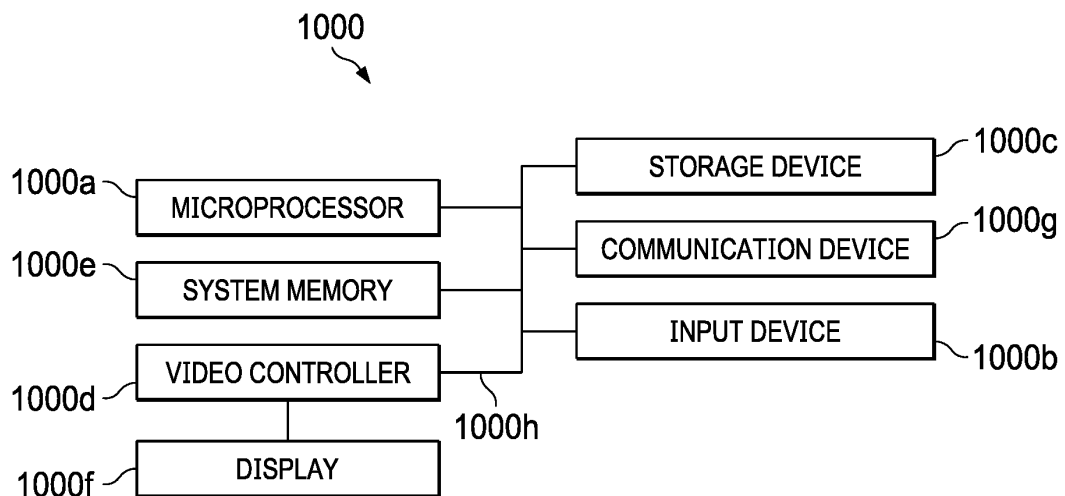
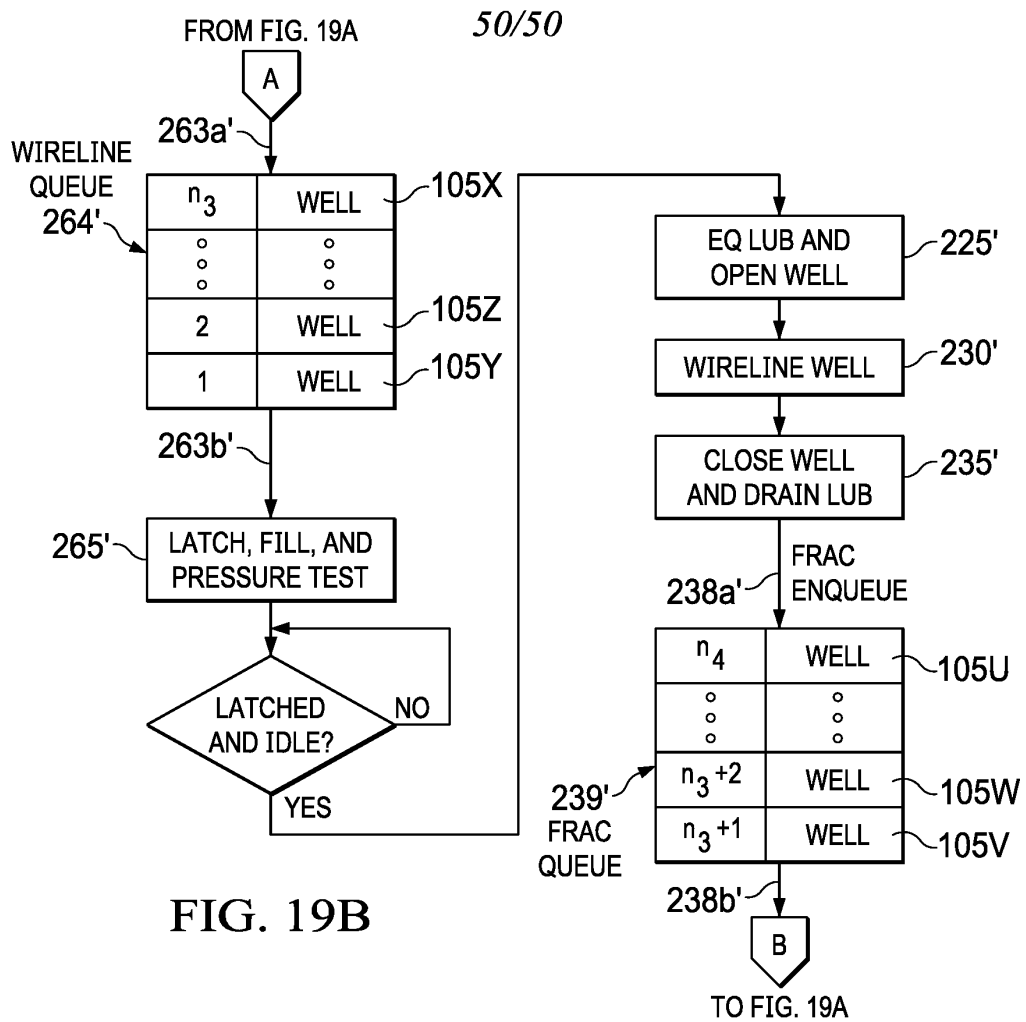


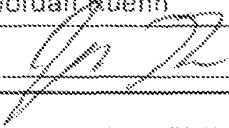
FIG. 18G

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**DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN
APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)**

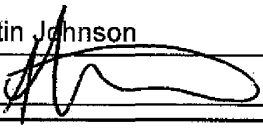
Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME
As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that: This declaration is directed to: ☐ The attached application, or ☒ United States application or PCT international application number <u>17/388,716</u> filed on <u>July 29, 2021</u> The above-identified application was made or authorized to be made by me. I believe that I am the original inventor or an original joint inventor of a claimed invention in the application. I hereby acknowledge that any willful false statement made in this declaration is punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both. WARNING: Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available. LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR Inventor: <u>Jordan Kuehn</u> Date (Optional): <u>9/27/21</u> Signature:  Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form or must have been previously filed. Use an additional PTO/AIA/01 form for each additional inventor.	

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 115 and 37 CFR 1.63. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO in process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 minute to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1480, Alexandria, VA 22313-1480. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1480, Alexandria, VA 22313-1480.

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**DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN
APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)**

Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME
As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that: This declaration is directed to: ☐ The attached application, or ☒ United States application or PCT international application number <u>17/388,716</u> filed on <u>July 29, 2021</u> The above-identified application was made or authorized to be made by me. I believe that I am the original inventor or an original joint inventor of a claimed invention in the application. I hereby acknowledge that any willful false statement made in this declaration is punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both. WARNING: Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available. LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR Inventor: <u>Austin Johnson</u> Date (Optional): <u>8/4/21</u> Signature:  Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form or must have been previously filed. Use an additional PTO/AIA/01 form for each additional inventor.	

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DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)

Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME
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LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR Inventor: <u>Ronnie B. Beason</u> Date (Optional): <u>9/28/2021</u> Signature: 	
Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form or must have been previously filed. Use an additional PTO/AIA/01 form for each additional inventor.	

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DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)

Title of Invention	HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PLAN AND EXECUTION OF SAME
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As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

This declaration is directed to: ☐ The attached application, or ☒ United States application or PCT International application number 17/388,716 filed on July 29, 2021

The above-identified application was made or authorized to be made by me.

I believe that I am the original inventor or an original joint inventor of a claimed invention in the application.

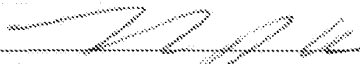
I hereby acknowledge that any willful false statement made in this declaration is punishable under 18 U.S.C. 1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both.

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LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR

Inventor: Nicholas J. Cannon Date (Optional): 07/30/2021

Signature: 

Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form or must have been previously filed. Use an additional PTO/AIA/E1 form for each additional inventor.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 115 and 37 CFR 1.63. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 minute to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing the burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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