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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE SCREEN APPARATUS AND METHOD

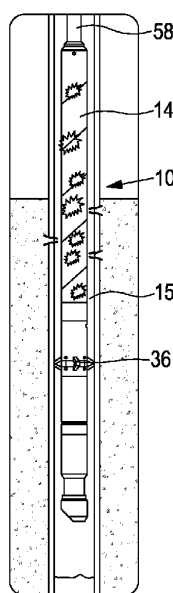


Figure 9

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a downhole expandable apparatus (10) for restricting ingress of solids in a wellbore, comprising a base pipe (26), a fluid permeable expandable foam material (28) mounted on the base pipe configurable between a non-expanded and an expanded configuration, and a degradable sleeve (14) configurable between a first configuration in which the degradable sleeve retains the expandable foam material in the non-expanded configuration, and a second configuration in which the degradable sleeve has been at least partially degraded to permit the expandable foam material to radially expand towards the expanded configuration and into engagement with a surface in the wellbore; and associated methods of restricting ingress of solids in a wellbore, repairing/plugging defects downhole, and stabilising subsurface formations.