



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

REEXAM CONTROL NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	PATENT NUMBER
90/006,919	01/26/2004	5474142

CONFIRMATION NO. 5103 #4

Terry L. Leier
 Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP
 45 O'Connor Street 20th Floor
 Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4
 CANADA

Date Mailed: 01/29/2004

NOTICE OF REEXAMINATION REQUEST FILING DATE

(Third Party Requester)

Requester is hereby notified that the filing date of the request for reexamination is 01/26/2004, the date the required fee of \$2,520 was received.

A decision on the request for reexamination will be mailed within three months from the filing date of the request for reexamination. (See 37 CFR 1.515(a)).

A copy of the Notice is being sent to the person identified by the requester as the patent owner. Further patent owner correspondence will be the latest attorney or agent of record in the patent file. (See 37 CFR 1.33). Any paper filed should include a reference to the present request for reexamination (by Reexamination Control Number).

cc: Patent Owner

Wildcat Services, L. P.
 17219 Houston Drive
 Cypress, TX 77433

M. A. Switty
 Office of Patent Legal Administration
 Central Reexamination Unit (703) 308-9692

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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

REEXAM CONTROL NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	PATENT NUMBER
90/006,919	01/26/2004	5474142

#5

Wildcat Services, L. P.
 17219 Houston Drive
 Cypress, TX 77433

CONFIRMATION NO. 5103
REEXAM ASSIGNMENT NOTICE

Date Mailed: 01/29/2004

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT OF REEXAMINATION REQUEST

The above-identified request for reexamination has been assigned to Art Unit 3672. All future correspondence to the proceeding should be identified by the control number listed above and directed to the assigned Art Unit.

A copy of this Notice is being sent to the latest attorney or agent of record in the patent file or to all owners of record. (See 37 CFR 1.33(c)). If the addressee is not, or does not represent, the current owner, he or she is required to forward all communications regarding this proceeding to the current owner(s). An attorney or agent receiving this communication who does not represent the current owner(s) may wish to seek to withdraw pursuant to 37 CFR 1.36 in order to avoid receiving future communications. If the address of the current owner(s) is unknown, this communication should be returned within the request to withdraw pursuant to Section 1.36.

cc-Third Party Requester(if any)

Terry L. Leier
 Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP
 450 Connor Street 20th Floor
 Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4
 CANADA

Office of Patent Legal Administration
 Central Reexamination Unit (703) 308-9692

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

**Order Granting / Denying Request For
Ex Parte Reexamination**

Control No.

90/006,919

Patent Under Reexamination

5474142

Examiner

William P Neuder

Art Unit

3672

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

The request for *ex parte* reexamination filed 26 January 2004 has been considered and a determination has been made. An identification of the claims, the references relied upon, and the rationale supporting the determination are attached.

Attachments: a) ☐ PTO-892, b) ☒ PTO-1449, c) ☐ Other: _____

1. ☒ The request for *ex parte* reexamination is GRANTED.

RESPONSE TIMES ARE SET AS FOLLOWS:

For Patent Owner's Statement (Optional): TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication (37 CFR 1.530 (b)). **EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c).**

For Requester's Reply (optional): TWO MONTHS from the **date of service** of any timely filed Patent Owner's Statement (37 CFR 1.535). **NO EXTENSION OF THIS TIME PERIOD IS PERMITTED.** If Patent Owner does not file a timely statement under 37 CFR 1.530(b), then no reply by requester is permitted.

2. ☐ The request for *ex parte* reexamination is DENIED.

This decision is not appealable (35 U.S.C. 303(c)). Requester may seek review by petition to the Commissioner under 37 CFR 1.181 within ONE MONTH from the mailing date of this communication (37 CFR 1.515(c)). **EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE SUCH A PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.181 ARE AVAILABLE ONLY BY PETITION TO SUSPEND OR WAIVE THE REGULATIONS UNDER 37 CFR 1.183.**

In due course, a refund under 37 CFR 1.26 (c) will be made to requester:

- a) ☐ by Treasury check or,
b) ☐ by credit to Deposit Account No. _____, or
c) ☐ by credit to a credit card account, unless otherwise notified (35 U.S.C. 303(c)).

William P Neuder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3672

cc: Requester (if third party requester)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-471 (Rev. 04-01)

Office Action In *Ex Parte* Reexamination

Part of Paper No. 6

Application/Control Number: 90/006,919
Art Unit: 3672

Page 2

Reexamination

The patent owner is reminded of the continuing responsibility under 37 CFR 1.565(a) to apprise the Office of any litigation activity, or other prior or concurrent proceeding, involving Patent No. throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. The third party requester is also reminded of the ability to similarly apprise the Office of any such activity or proceeding throughout the course of this reexamination proceeding. See MPEP §§ 2207, 2282 and 2286.

A substantial new question of patentability affecting claims 1 and 11 of United States Patent Number 5,474,142 is raised by the request for reexamination.

The request indicates that the Requestor considers claims 1 and 11 are unpatentable over Varney.

It is agreed that consideration of Varney raises a substantial new question of patentability as to claims 1 and 11 of the Bowden patent. As pointed out on pages 1-4 of the request, Varney teaches an automatic drilling system and method for automatically regulating the release of a drill string including a pressure sensor 112. Drilling fluid pressure regulator 125 coupled to sensor 112 measures changes in drilling fluid pressure and outputs a signal representing those changes by use of potentiometer 125. Discriminator 128 is a relay responsive to the output signal of the pressure transducer. Power transformer 132 drives a brake 134 that is considered the controller coupled to the relay that controls the rate of release. The use of drilling fluid pressure to control the release of the drill string was not present in the examination of the original patent. Varney teaches the use of drilling fluid pressure to control release of the drill

Application/Control Number: 90/006,919
Art Unit: 3672

Page 3

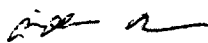
string as described above. A reasonable examiner would consider this teaching of Varney in deciding if the claims are patentable or not.

Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted in these proceedings because the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 apply only to "an applicant" and not parties in a reexamination proceeding. Additionally, 35 U.S.C. 305 requires that reexamination proceedings "will be conducted with special dispatch" (37 CFR 1.550(a)). Extension of time in reexamination proceedings are provided for in 37 CFR 1.550(c).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P Neuder whose telephone number is 703-308-2150. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J Bagnell can be reached on 703-308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William P Neuder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

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.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.501. 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 2 hours 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.

National Oilwell Varco, LP
Exhibit 2024
Page 6 of 7



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

DO NOT USE IN PALM PRINTER

(THIRD PARTY REQUESTER'S CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS)

Terry L. LEIER
Blake Cassels + Graydon,
LLP
450'Connon Street, 20th FL.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P1A4

REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO. 90/006919

PATENT NO. 5,474,142

ART UNIT 3672

Enclosed is a copy of the latest communication from the Patent and Trademark Office in the above identified reexamination proceeding. 37 C.F.R. 1.550(e).

Where this copy is supplied after the reply by requester, 37 C.F.R. 1.535, or the time for filing a reply has passed, no submissions on behalf of the reexamination requester will be acknowledged or considered. 37 C.F.R. 1.550(e).