Norman Latker

From: Seth W. Mackay-Smith [smackay_smith@umac.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 4:23 PM
To: Norman Latker
Cc: Sheridan Neimark; C. Dean McGowan
Subject: RE: Draft Claim Set for MACKAY-SMITH=1
Attachments: 2008-07-03-DRAFT CLAIMS TO SMS UMAC rev1.doc

Dear Norm and Sherry,

Thank you for your work on this.

Dean and I reviewed the claims. We have one item that is fairly important to us and two other items that may bear further scrutiny. I have marked up a copy of the document you sent 7/3/08 in order to fully illustrate the points below.

The first item appears in claim one and follows throughout (Therefore I have only changed it in claim one). Essentially, we do not wish to exclude commercial and industrial service lines as opposed to residential ones.

Secondly, it would appear that the intent in claim 22 is to refer to claim 21 instead of claim 20.

Finally, do you intend to exclude all of the claims preceding claim 29 from the language used in claims 32 and 33? The question of whether it may benefit us to include the preceding claims arose during our internal discussions.

Please contact me if you require further clarification on any of these points.

Sincerely,

Seth

> -----Original Message-----
> **From:** Norman Latker [mailto:NJLatker@browdyneimark.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, 03 July, 2008 12:57 PM
> **To:** smackay_smith@umac.com
> **Cc:** Sheridan Neimark
> **Subject:** RE: Draft Claim Set for MACKAY-SMITH=1
>
> Dear Seth
> As you probably know, a response to the Examiner's Apr.3 office action is due today. We are ready to respond but I am sure that you would want
> to review the attached new and amended claims Sherry and I drafted before we do so. We apologize for our tardiness in bringing this to your attention
> and would understand your need for more time to review. However, if you want to proceed today we need your authorization a few hours before close
> of business today. If you would rather have a one month extension to reply, we can pay a government penalty fee of $55
>
> Thank You
> Norm Latker

NTL Amended copy based on 7/10/08 instructions

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An excess flow valve (EFV) adapted to be installed in an existing service line of a natural gas distribution system ~~serving an existing home~~, said EFV comprising:

a cylindrical housing having a first length and a second length and a through hole therethrough for passage of gas;

the EFV being engaged in said through hole of said first length; and

an expandable wall forming part of said second length;

wherein when said expandable wall ~~can be~~ is expanded ~~and~~ in the service line, the EFV is fixed and left in said service line.

2. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 1, wherein said first length and said second length are integrally formed together as a unit.

3. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 1, wherein an annular wall at each end of said second

length of said EFV housing is thicker than the expandable wall between the ends of said second length.

4. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 3, wherein said expandable wall is expanded and fixed by installation equipment engaged to said EFV after the engaged installation equipment and EFV are inserted into said service line.

5. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 4, wherein said installation equipment comprises a mandrel, fluid line and hydraulic pump which are all engaged together to deliver fluid under pressure to said mandrel.

6. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 5, wherein said mandrel includes a cylindrical housing engaged to said fluid line, said mandrel housing having a pair of O-rings respectively fixed at opposite ends thereof and a fluid outlet hole located between said O-rings.

7. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 6, wherein said O-rings of said mandrel are respectively fixed against the annular wall at each end of said second length so as to form a space between said expandable wall and said mandrel when said mandrel is engaged in said EFV.

8. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 6, wherein the diameter of said EFV housing, said mandrel housing and said fluid line are each smaller than that of said service line.

9. (Currently Amended) The excess flow valve according to claim 4, wherein the engaged installation equipment and EFV are inserted into the service line through a bypass tee at an inlet side of a gas meter of said natural gas distribution system.

10. (Original) The excess flow valve according to claim 6, wherein the pair of O-rings are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to that between the ends of said second length.

11. (New) An excess flow valve (EFV) adapted to be installed in an existing service line of a natural gas distribution system serving ~~an existing home~~, said EFV comprising:

a cylindrical housing having a first length and a second length and a through hole therethrough for passage of gas;

the EFV being engaged in said through hole of said first length; and

an expandable wall forming part of said second length;

wherein said expandable wall can be expanded and fixed in said service line;

wherein an annular wall at each end of said second length of said EFV housing is thicker than the expandable wall between the ends of said second length, and

wherein said expandable wall is expanded and fixed by installation equipment engaged to said EFV after the engaged installation equipment and EFV are inserted into said service line.

12. (New) An excess flow valve (EFV) adapted to be installed in ~~a~~ AN EXISTING service line of a natural gas distribution system ~~serving an existing home~~, said EFV comprising:

a cylindrical housing having a first length and a second length and a through hole therethrough for passage of gas;

the EFV being engaged in said through hole of said first length; and

an expandable wall forming part of said second length;

wherein said expandable wall can be expanded and fixed in said service line; and

wherein an annular wall at each end of said second length of said EFV housing is thicker than the expandable wall between the ends of said second length.

13. (New) Installation equipment for fixing and leaving an EFV device in an existing service line of a natural gas distribution system serving an existing home, said EFV device having a housing, said equipment comprising:

a mandrel engageable in said housing, a fluid line and a hydraulic pump which are all engaged together to deliver fluid under pressure to said mandrel.

14. (New) The installation equipment according to claim 13, wherein said mandrel includes a cylindrical housing engaged to said fluid line, said cylindrical housing having a pair of O-rings respectively fixed at opposite ends thereof and a fluid outlet hole located between said O-rings.

15. (New) The installation equipment according to claim 14, wherein said O-rings of said mandrel are respectively fixed against an annular inner wall of the EFV cylindrical housing to form a space between said EFV housing and said mandrel when said mandrel is engaged in said EFV device;

wherein said fluid is delivered under pressure to said mandrel to fix said EFV device in said service line.

16. (New) The installation equipment according to claim 15, wherein said mandrel and said fluid line are withdrawn from said service line after said EFV device is fixed in said service line.

17. (New) The installation equipment according to claim 13, wherein the diameter of said EFV housing, said mandrel housing and said fluid line are each smaller than that of said service line.

18. (New) The installation equipment according to claim 15, wherein the engaged installation equipment and EFV device are inserted into the service line through a bypass tee at an inlet side of a gas meter of said natural gas distribution system.

19. (New) The installation equipment according to claim 13, wherein the pair of O-rings are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to that between the ends of said annular wall.

20. (New) The excess flow valve according to claim 11, wherein said first length and said second length are integrally formed together as a unit.

21. (New) The excess flow valve according to claim 11, wherein said installation equipment comprises a mandrel, fluid line and hydraulic pump which are all engaged together to deliver fluid under pressure to said mandrel.

22. (New) The excess flow valve according to claim ~~20~~21, wherein said mandrel includes a cylindrical housing engaged to said fluid line, said mandrel housing having a pair of O-rings respectively fixed at opposite ends thereof and a fluid outlet hole located between said O-rings.

23. (New) The excess flow valve according to claim 21, wherein said O-rings of said mandrel are respectively fixed against the annular wall at each end of said second length so as to form a space between said expandable wall and said mandrel when said mandrel is engaged in said EFV.

24. (New) The excess flow valve according to claim 21, wherein the diameter of said EFV housing, said mandrel housing and said fluid line are each smaller than that of said service line.

25. (New) The excess flow valve according to claim 11, wherein the engaged installation equipment and EFV are inserted into the service line through a bypass tee at an inlet side of a gas meter of said natural gas distribution system.

26. (New) The excess flow valve according to claim 21, wherein the pair of O-rings are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to that between the ends of said second length.

27. (New) An excess flow valve (EFV) adapted to be installed in an existing service line of a natural gas distribution system serving an existing home, said EFV comprising:

a cylindrical housing having a first length and a second length and a through hole therethrough for passage of gas;

the EFV being engaged in said through hole of said first length; and

an expandable wall forming part of said second length;

wherein said expandable wall is formed of metal and is adapted to be permanently fixed in the service line.

28. (New) An excess flow valve (EFV) fixed in place within an inner wall of an existing service line of a natural gas

distribution system serving an existing facility, said EFV comprising:

a cylindrical housing having a first length and a second length and a through hole therethrough for passage of gas;

the EFV being engaged in said through hole of said first length; and

an expanding wall forming part of said second length and retained in fixed frictional contact against the inner wall of said service line.

29. (New) A method for installing an excess flow valve in an existing service line of a natural gas distribution system serving an existing structure, wherein the excess flow valve has a passageway for passage of gas therethrough, the excess flow valve being engaged in a through hole of a first length of a cylindrical housing, and the cylindrical housing having an expandable wall forming a part of a second length thereof, the expandable wall of the housing being capable of being expanded and fixed within the service line, the method comprising:

extending the cylindrical housing with the excess flow valve therewithin into the service line of the natural gas distribution system serving an existing structure; and

causing the expandable wall forming part of the second length of the cylindrical housing to expand so as to firmly frictionally engage the interior wall of the service line so as to fix and leave the EFV in the service line.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the expandable wall of the second length of the cylindrical housing is caused to expand by delivering fluid under pressure thereto.

31. (New) The method of claim 29 or claim 30, wherein the cylindrical housing with the excess flow valve therewithin is forced to a position within the service line by use of a mandrel.

32. (New) A method according to any one of claims 29 through 31, wherein the location in the service line into which the cylindrical housing with the excess flow valve therein is delivered is underground.

33. (New) The method of any one of claims 29-32, wherein the service line has a bend therein and the cylindrical housing with the excess flow valve therewithin is forced around the bend and downstream therefrom to the location at which the expansion takes place.