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Express Search, Inc.
2121 Eisenhower Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Patent Validity Search
5,186,829
XS-SAMPLE-VAL

May 1, 2006

Dear Mr. Flagg,

In accordance with your email received September 17, 2005, a Patent Validity Search of 24 hours was conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for U.S. Patent No. 5,186,829, in accordance with the disclosure provided.

The following Examiner was consulted regarding the field of search:

Examiner Housel in Art Unit 1648

The following US classes and subclasses were searched:

Class 210 (Liquid Purification or Separation)

Subs. 232, 234, 235

Class 137 (Fluid Handling)

Subs. 588, 558

Class 251 (Valves and Valve Actuation)

Subs. 144, 351

The following IPC-8 classes and subclasses were searched:

B01D (SEPARATION)

35/30 Other filtering devices; Auxiliary devices for filtration; Filter housing constructions;
Filter housing construction

35/153 Other filtering devices; Auxiliary devices for filtration; Filter housing constructions;
Safety devices specially adapted for filtration; Anti-leakage or anti-return valves

E03B (INSTALLATIONS OR METHODS FOR OBTAINING, COLLECTING, OR DISTRIBUTING WATER)

7/07 Water main or service pipe systems; Arrangement of devices, e.g. filters, flow controls, measuring devices, siphons, valves, in the pipe systems

F16K (VALVES; TAPS; COCKS; ACTUATING-FLOATS; DEVICES FOR VENTING OR AERATING)

24/00 Devices, e.g. valves, for venting or aerating enclosures

31/00 Operating means; Releasing devices

37/00 Special means in or on valves or other cut-off apparatus for indicating or recording operation thereof, or for enabling an alarm to be given

51/00 Other details not peculiar to particular types of valves or cut-off apparatus

F17D (PIPE-LINE SYSTEMS; PIPE-LINES)

3/00 Arrangements for supervising or controlling working operations

The following patents appear to be most relevant:

4,052,307 discloses a universal filter mounting attachment which has an adaptor and valve controlled openings (Abstract; Figures 1, 3, 5; Claims 1, 2, 3 6; Column 2, Lines 27-68; Column 3, Lines 1-2, 41-68; Column 4, Lines 1-14).

5,958,230 discloses a cylinder with face plates at the ends (Figures 2, 7, 9; Claims 1, 11, 16, 18).

5,144,978 discloses a valve with a valve head located on a vessel and adapted to seat against the same gasket that seals the valve to the vessel (Abstract; Figures all; Claims 1, 8).

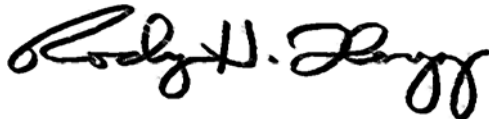
The following patents also appear to be relevant:

5,958,230	-	Filter For Gasoline And Other Liquids
5,322,624	-	Fuel Filter With Drain/fill/sensor Port
5,244,571	-	Fuel Filter Assembly With Heater
5,144,978	-	Self-venting Drain Valve
5,045,192	-	Filter Assembly With Lockable Lug Means
5,035,797	-	Key System For Filter Assembly
4,740,299	-	Filter Assembly With Threaded Collection Bowl
4,708,171	-	Drain Valve
4,440,193	-	Valve Assembly
4,052,307	-	Universal Filter Mounting Attachment
2,533,266	-	Filter

2,524,336	-	Filter
1,456,883	-	Gasoline Filter
WO 05061073	-	Keyed Filter Assembly
JP 10038480	-	Plate Type Heat Exchanger For Cooling Oil
GB 2078536	-	Fuel Filter Assembly And Cartridge
GB 2030052	-	Filter Apparatus
EP 0532161	-	Fuel Filter Key System.
EP 0442365	-	Key System For Filter Assembly.

These patents are representative of the prior art searched. Copies of the cited prior art are enclosed for your further review. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this search.

Best Regards,
EXPRESS SEARCH



Rodger Flagg
President

RHF/chf
Enclosure: 19 Patents
Ref: E10-60001