



US008734597B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kim et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,734,597 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 27, 2014**

(54) **SEGMENTAL ULTRASONIC CLEANING APPARATUS FOR REMOVING SCALES AND SLUDGE ON TOP OF TUBE SHEET IN HEAT EXCHANGER**

(75) Inventors: **Seok Tae Kim**, Daejeon (KR); **Woo Tae Jeong**, Daejeon (KR); **Hee Geun Kim**, Daejeon (KR); **Tae Young Kong**, Daejeon (KR)

(73) Assignee: **Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co., Ltd.**, Seoul (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 821 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/891,683**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 27, 2010**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2012/0055521 A1 Mar. 8, 2012

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 6, 2010 (KR) 10-2010-0086896

(51) **Int. Cl.**
F28G 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **134/167 R**; 134/168 R; 134/184;
134/201; 376/310; 376/316

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 134/172, 167 R, 168 R, 184; 376/310,
376/316; 15/363, 379
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,957,994	A *	10/1960	Dickey	310/26
4,424,769	A *	1/1984	Charamathieu et al.	122/392
5,305,361	A *	4/1994	Enomoto et al.	376/316
5,411,043	A *	5/1995	Kamler	134/167 R
5,514,219	A *	5/1996	Kamler	134/22.1
5,913,320	A *	6/1999	Varrin et al.	134/22.18
6,290,778	B1 *	9/2001	Zugibe	134/1
2005/0092354	A1 *	5/2005	Jeong et al.	134/180
2006/0107975	A1 *	5/2006	Arguelles et al.	134/56 R

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Michael Barr

Assistant Examiner — Kevin G Lee

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP; Kongsik Kim; Stephen D. LeBarron

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a segmental ultrasonic cleaning apparatus configured to remove scales and/or sludge deposited on a tube sheet. The segmental ultrasonic cleaning apparatus includes a plurality of segment groups arranged in a ring shape on a top surface of a tube sheet along an inner wall of the steam generator, in which each of the segment groups includes an ultrasonic element segment and a guide rail support segment loosely connected to each other by metal wires through hand holes located at a lower portion of the steam generator, such that ultrasound waves radiated from an ultrasonic transducer in each of the ultrasonic element segments travels along the surface of the tube sheet, with the segment groups tightly connected in the ring shape by tightening the metal wires via wire pulleys of flange units.

5 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

