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Watten et al.

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(54) **HYDROPOWER CONVERSION SYSTEM**

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(56)

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ABSTRACT

A hydropower conversion system is provided which uses a hydraulic gradient to accelerate water in a drive pipe. A valve is disposed in the drive pipe to interrupt the flow of water and thus create a temporary negative pressure within the drive pipe. A negative pressure relief device with a riser section is coupled to the drive pipe and is adapted to pull air but not water into the riser section when under negative pressure. A pneumatic device such as a power turbine is coupled to the negative pressure relief device.

29 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

