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(54) **SEWAGE HANDLING SYSTEM, COVER, AND CONTROLS**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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E03F 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **E03F 5/00** (2013.01)
USPC **417/40; 417/423.3; 220/735**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 417/40, 423.3; 220/735
See application file for complete search history.

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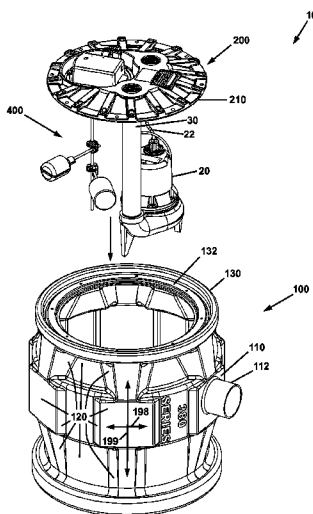
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A basin for use in liquid handling, such as sewage handling. The basin is comprised of a bottom wall, a side wall, and an open top, and a hanging feature formed in the body of the basin. A basin assembly for liquid handling may include the basin, and a hanging member suspended from the hanging feature within the basin. One or more level switches may be attached to the hanging member. A sewage handling system may include the basin assembly, a top cover fastenable to the open top of the basin, and a pump disposed in the basin.

19 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets



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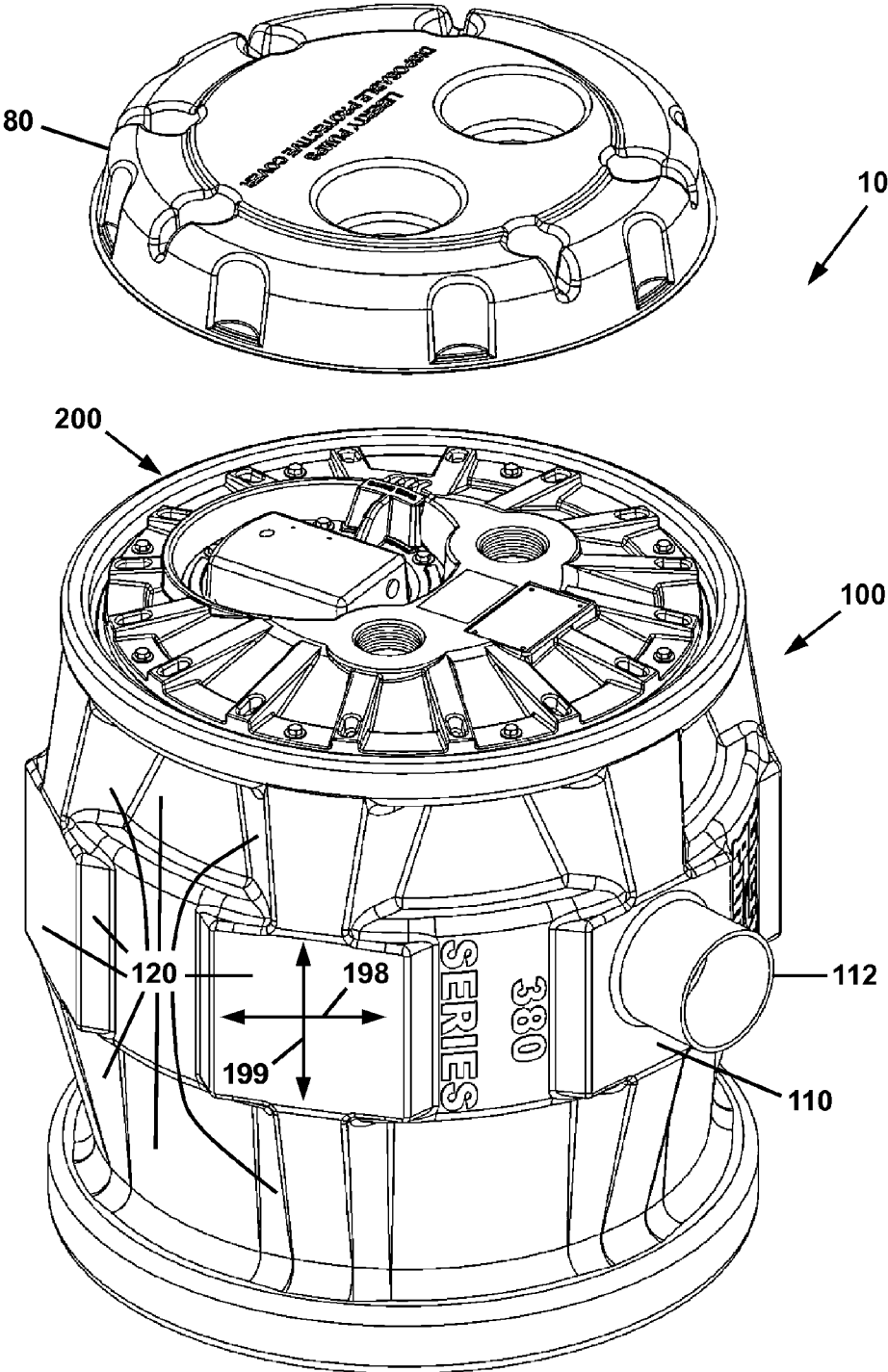


FIG. 1

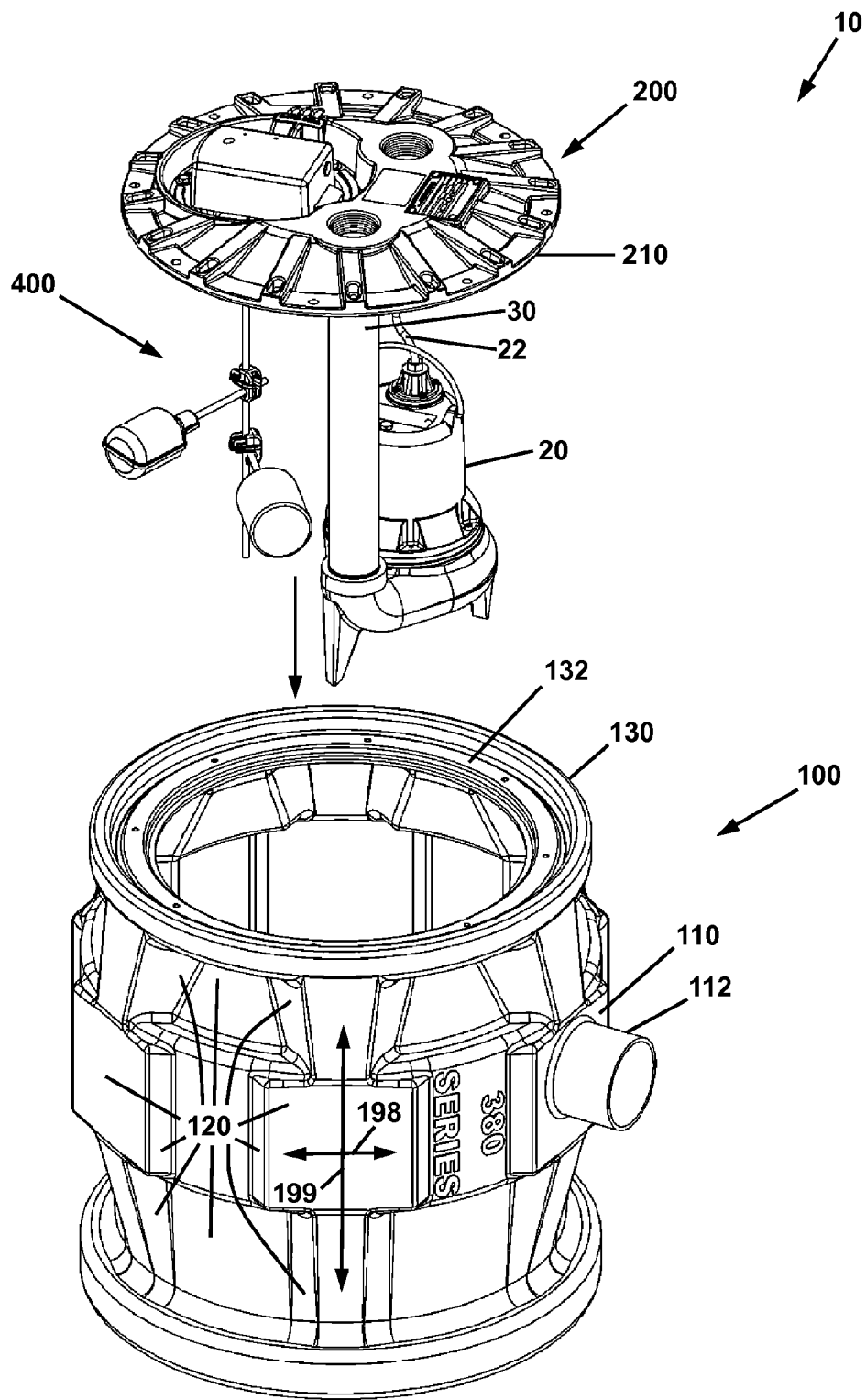


FIG. 2

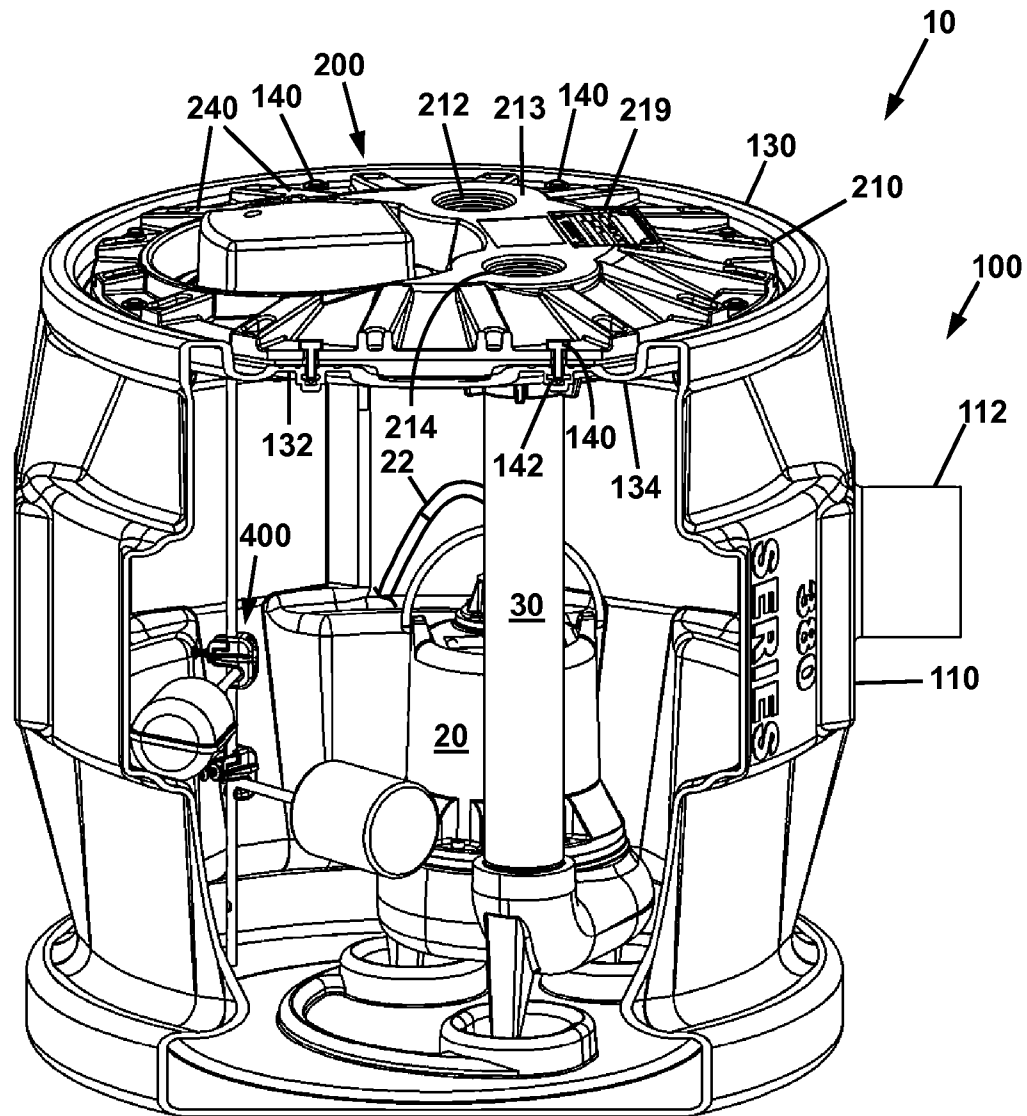


FIG. 3

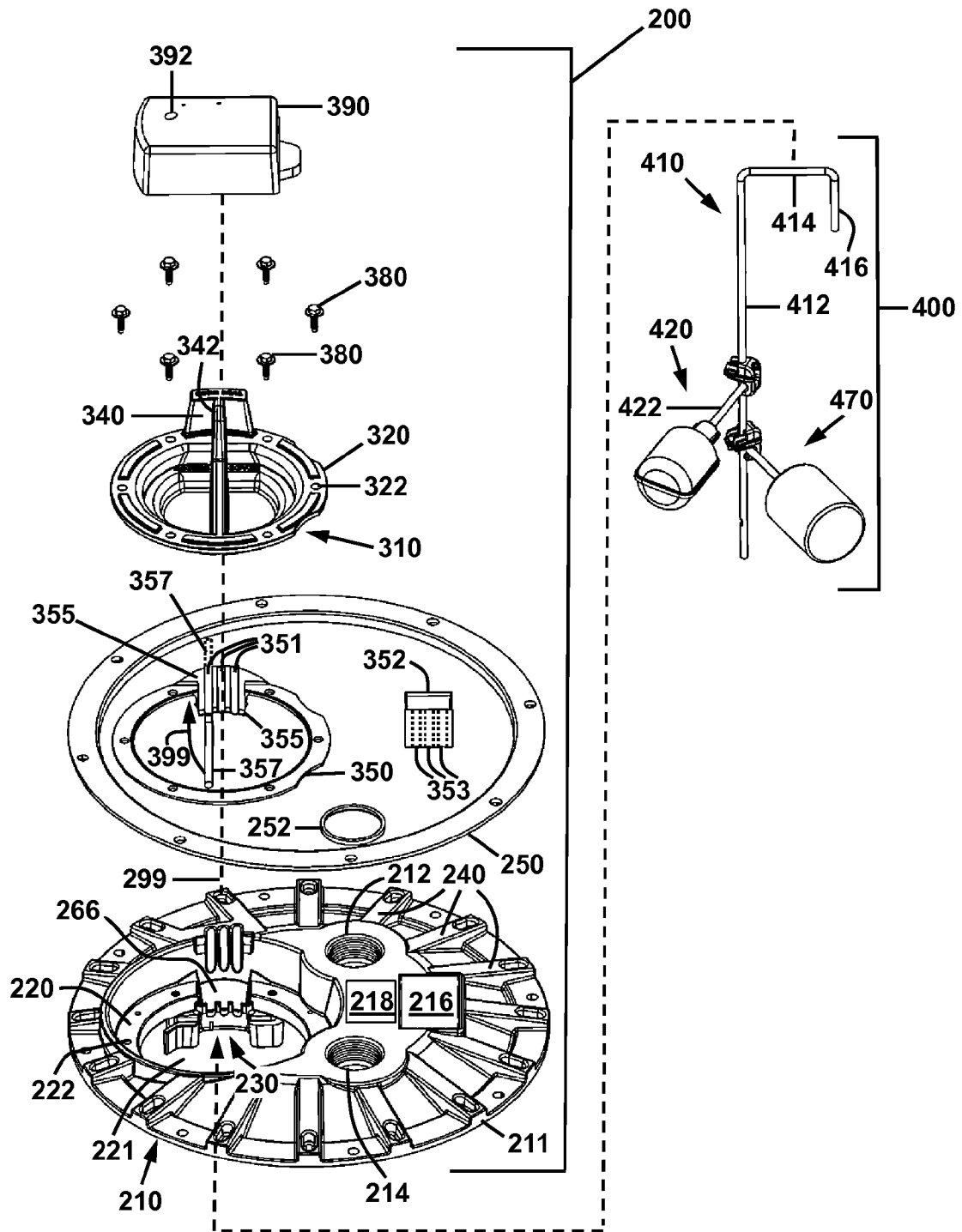


FIG. 4

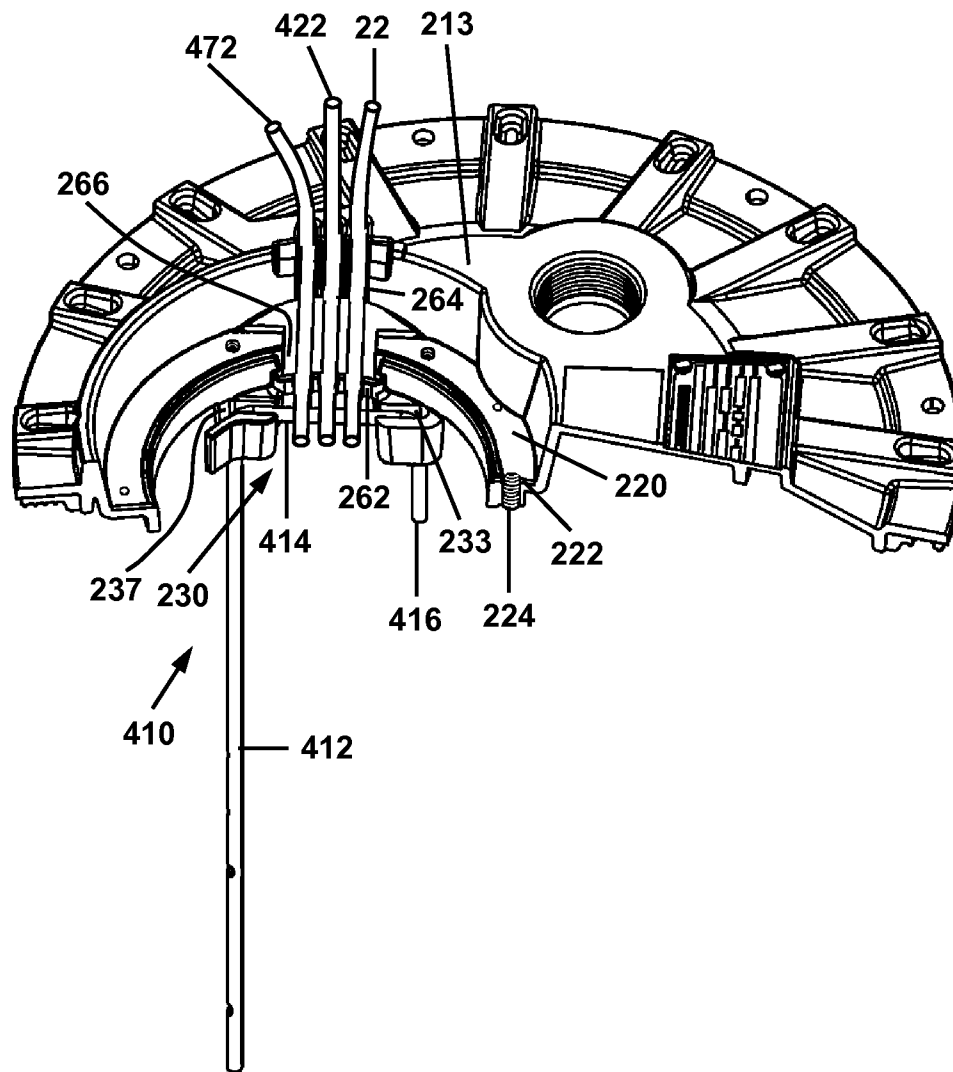


FIG. 5

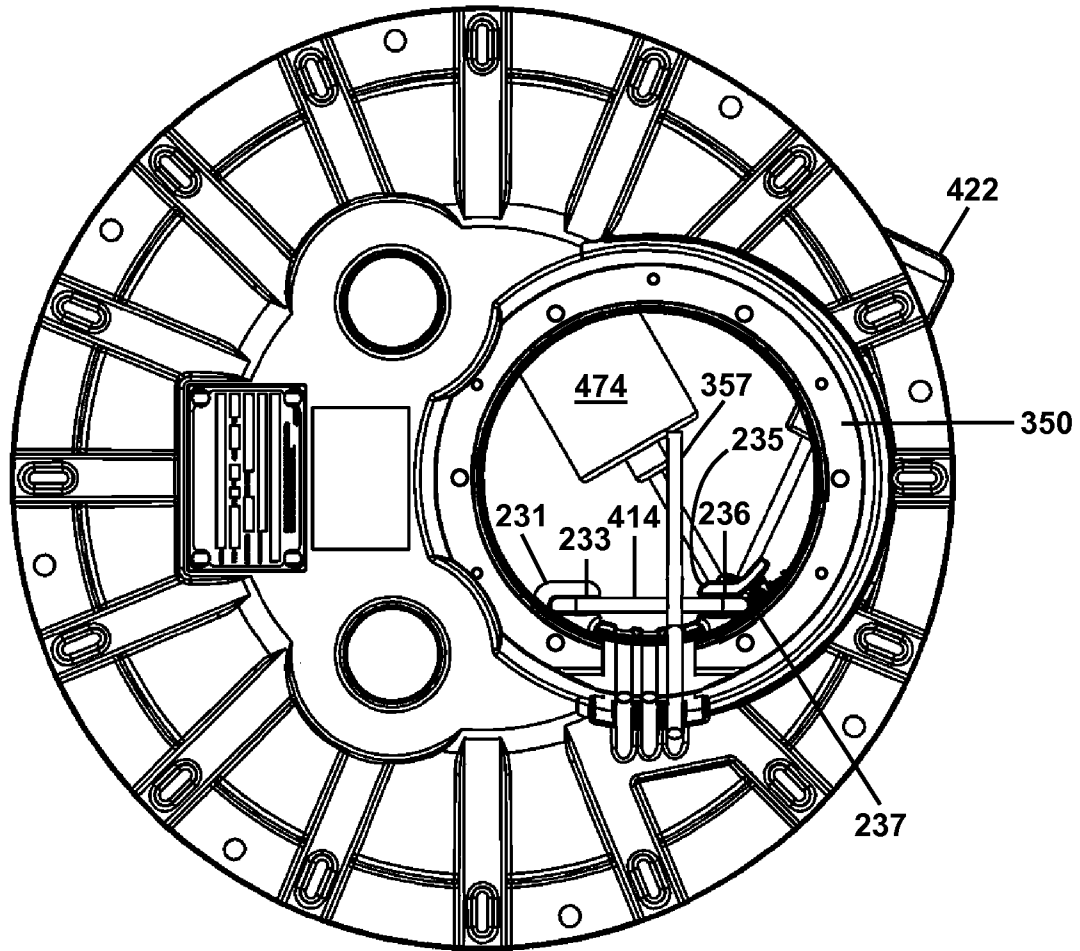


FIG. 6

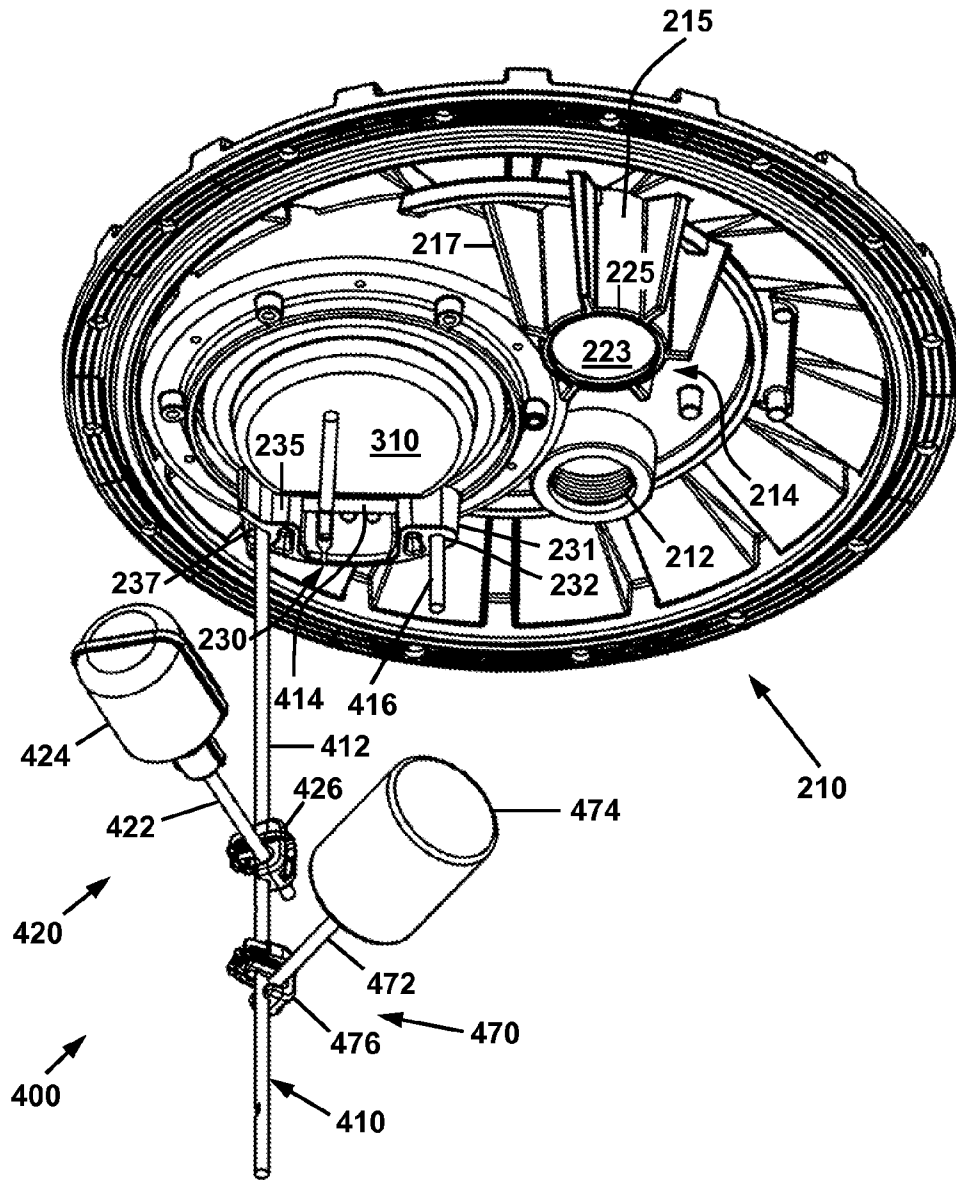


FIG. 7

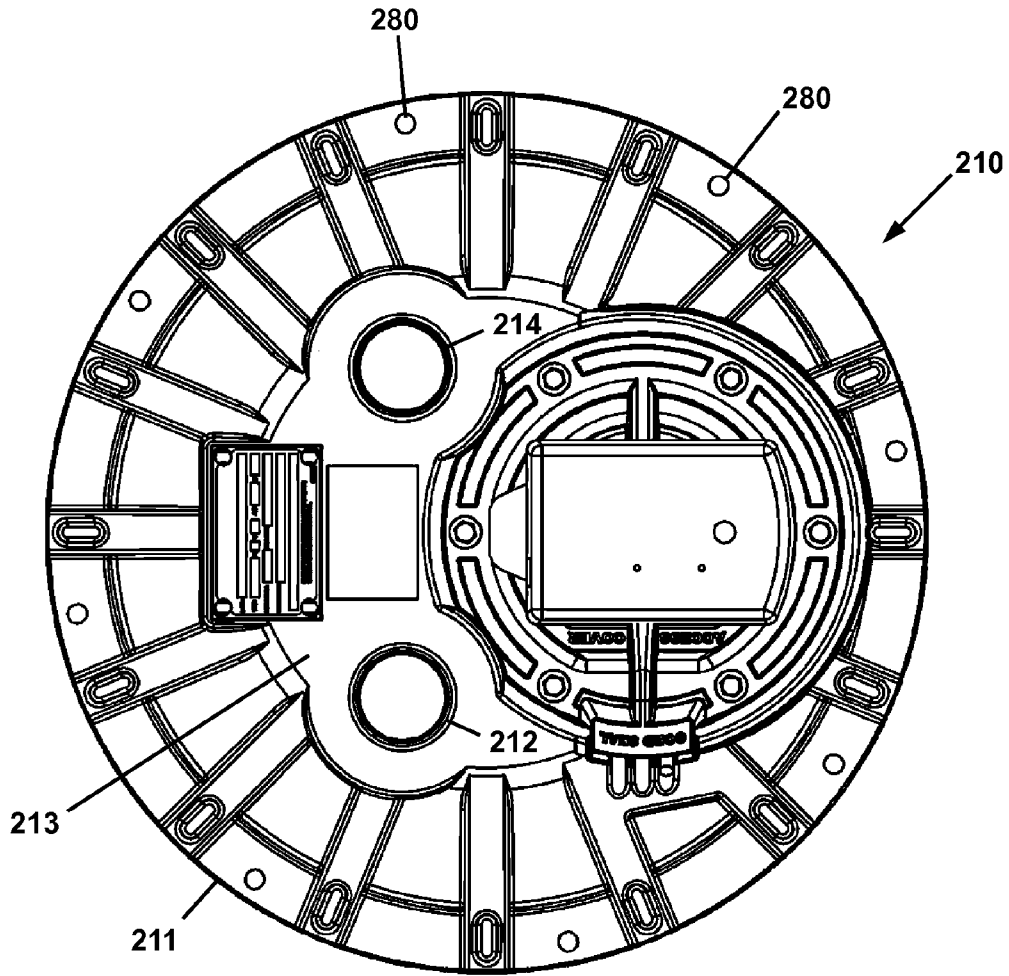


FIG. 8

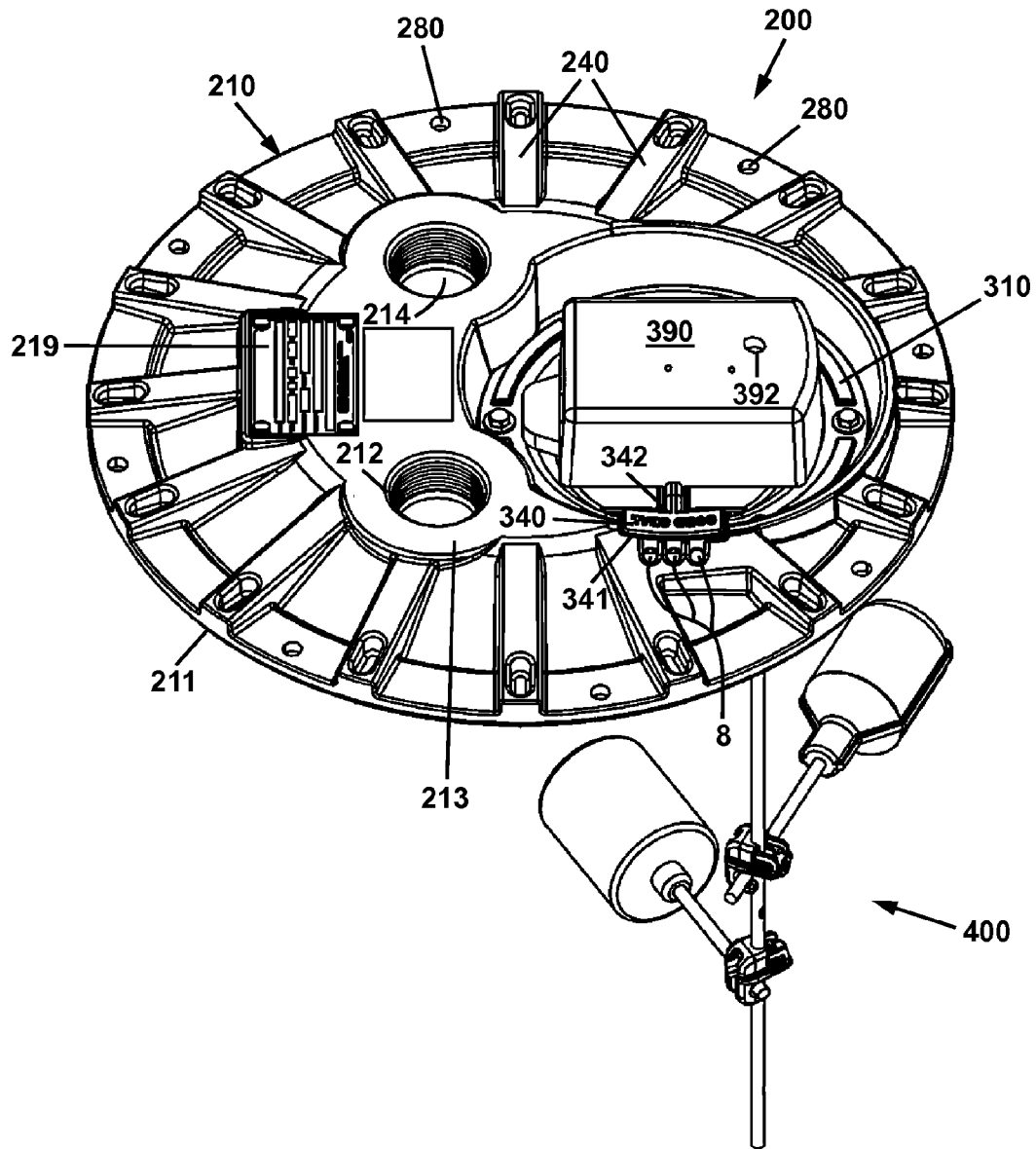


FIG. 9

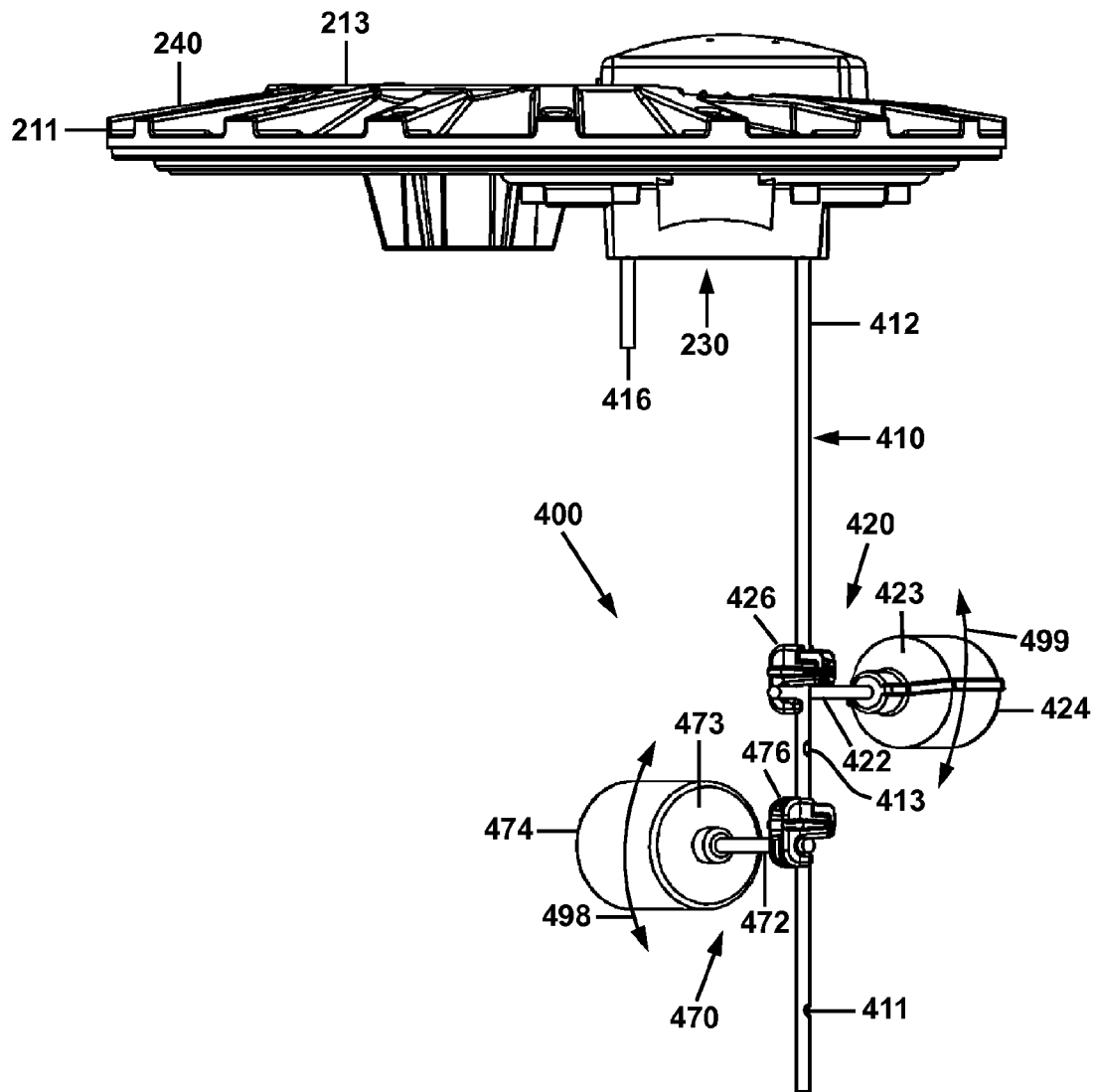


FIG. 10

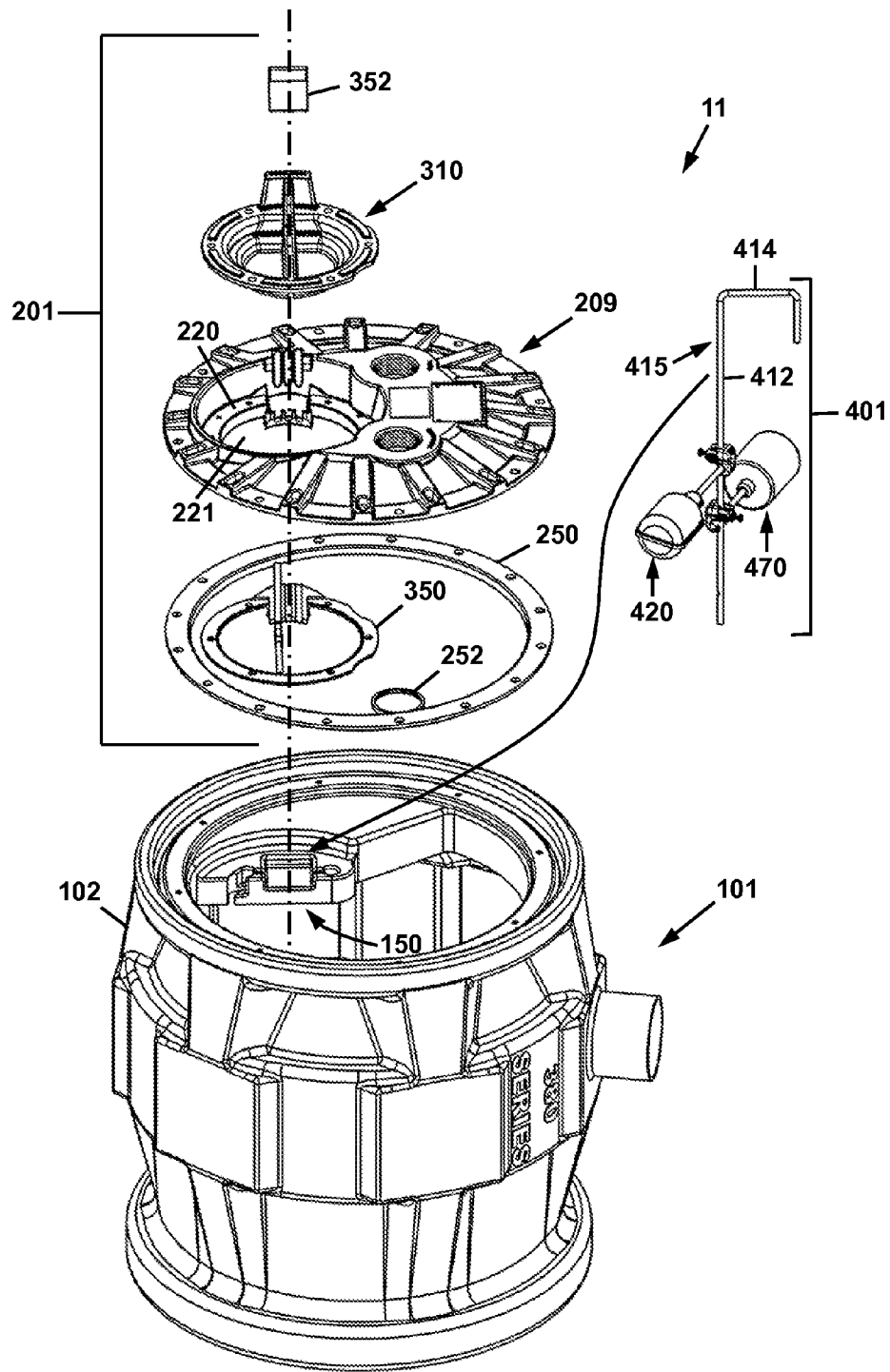


FIG. 11

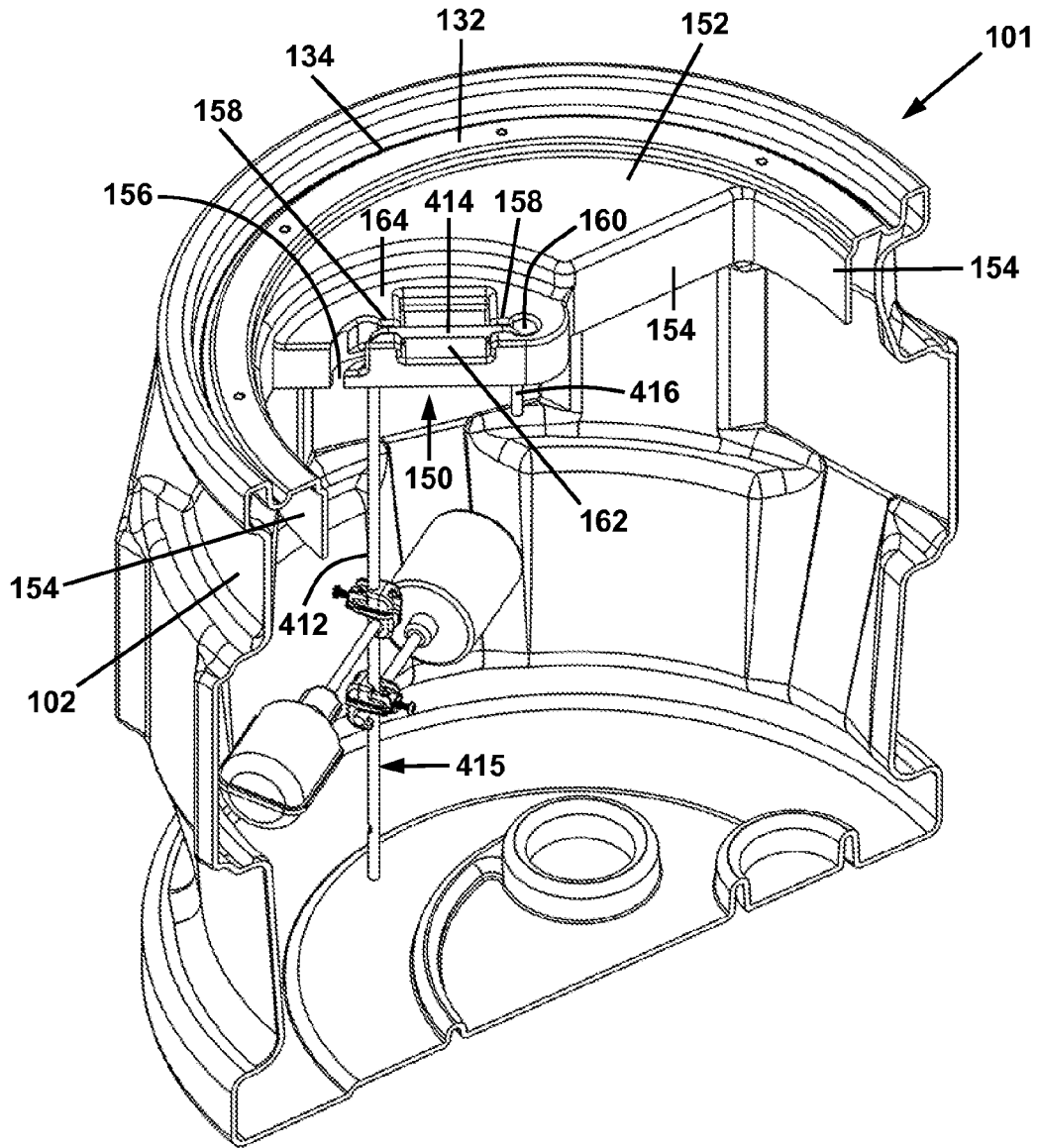


FIG. 12

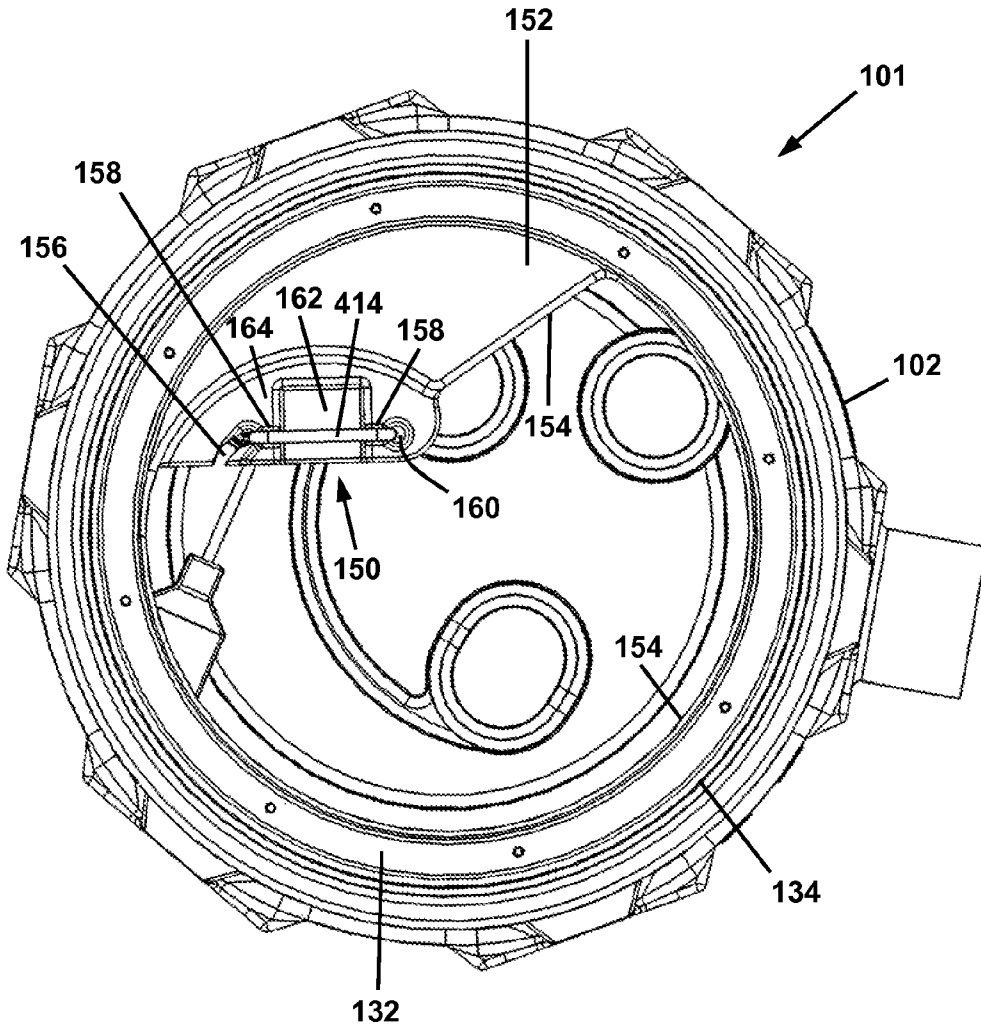


FIG. 13

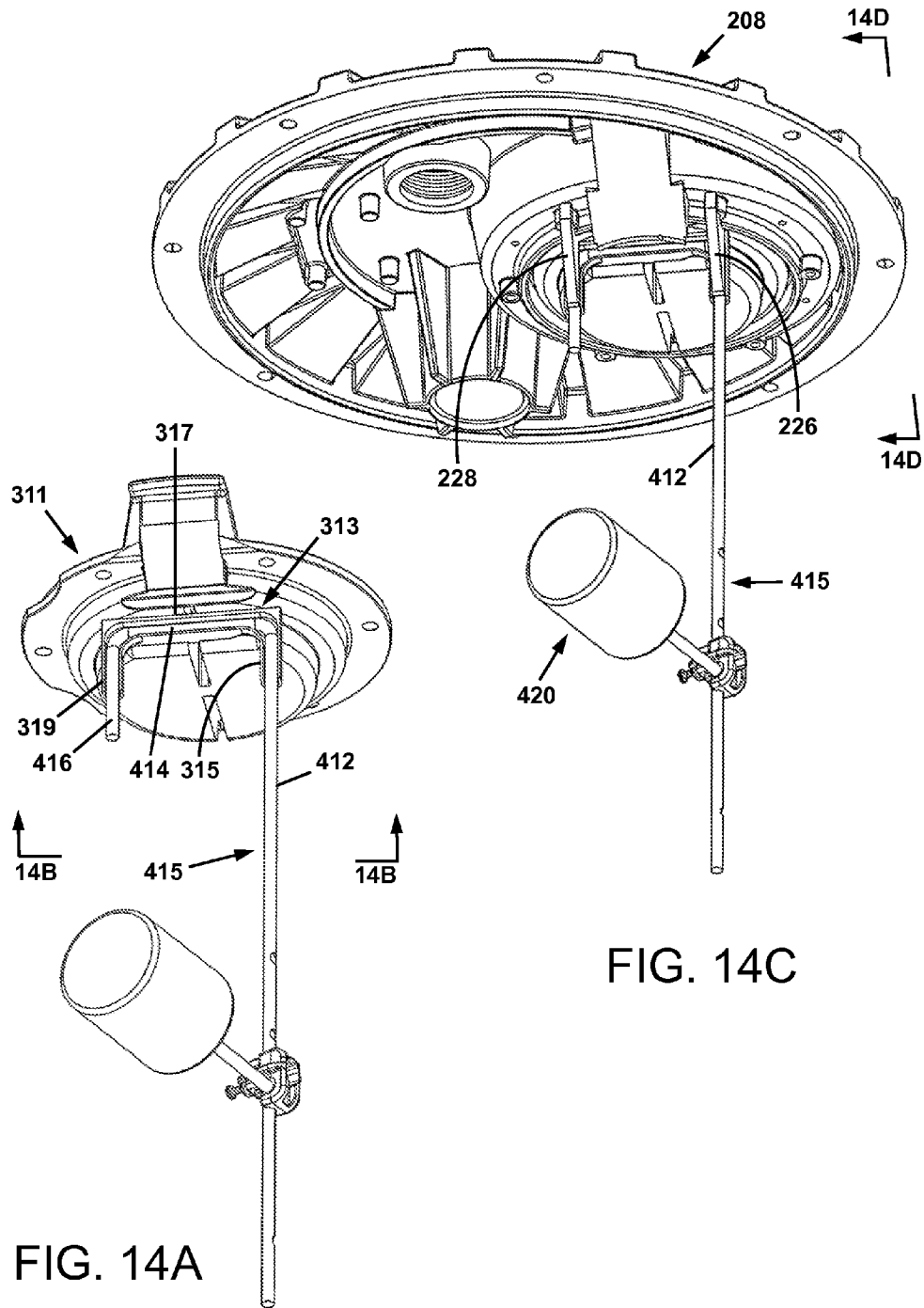
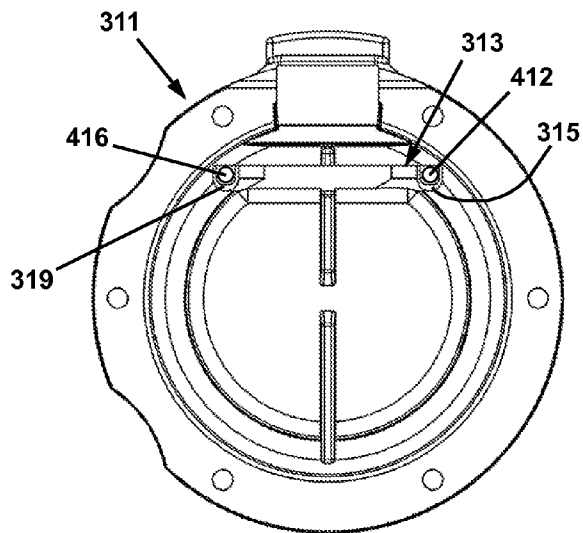
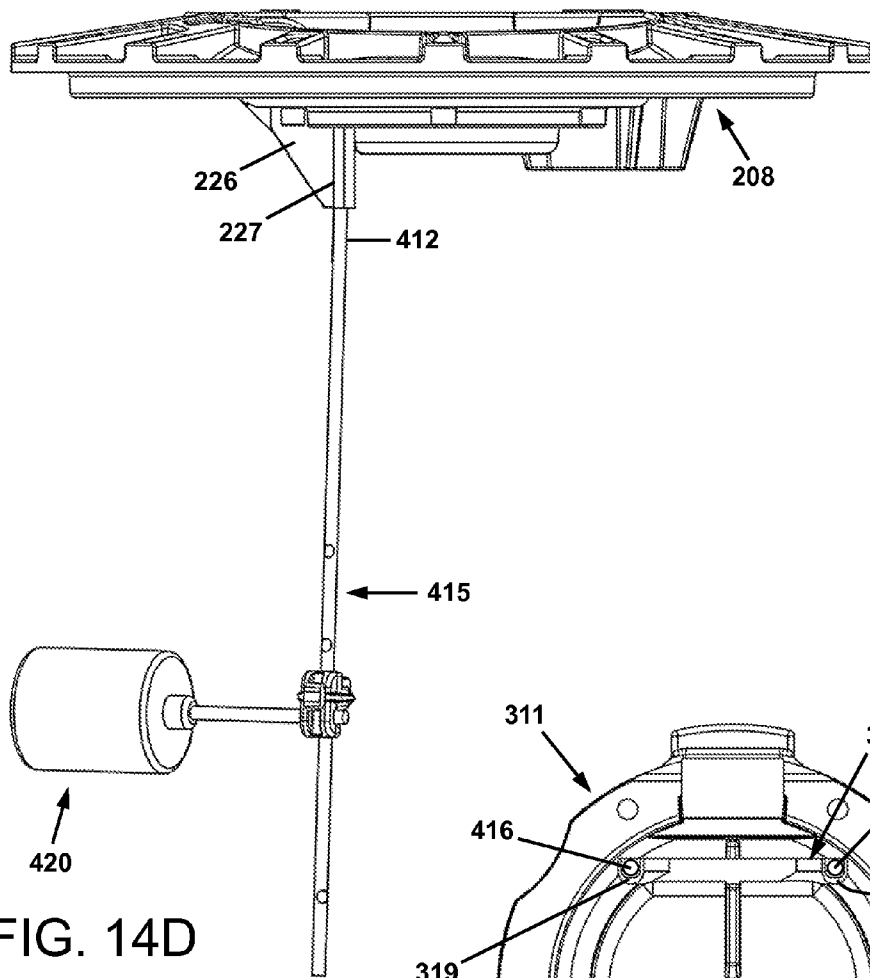


FIG. 14A

FIG. 14C



SEWAGE HANDLING SYSTEM, COVER, AND CONTROLS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of commonly owned copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/417,567, which is a continuation-in-part of commonly owned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/093,133, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,520,736, and commonly owned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/111,113, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,563,082, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

A sewage handling system, a cover assembly for a sewage basin, a basin assembly, and control accessories disposed within a sewage basin for receiving and distributing sewage via a pump housed in the basin.

2. Description of Related Art

In general, sewage may be distributed from a sewage source to a desired location by gravity flow or by pumping. For example, for residential sewage, all sources of sewage in the residence may be located higher than the public sewer or septic tank connection, and the sewage may be transported to the connection solely by gravity flow. However, if a sewage source is located at a lower elevation than the sewer line connection as often occurs, it becomes necessary to pump sewage uphill to the connection. For example, a toilet may be installed in a bathroom located in a basement where the sewer line connection is located higher than the toilet.

Sewage basin assemblies may be installed to deliver sewage from a source to the desired sewer line connection. These assemblies typically include a container having an inlet, where sewage is received from the sewage source, and a pump for pumping received sewage to an outlet of the container, the outlet for connection to a sewer line leading to the public sewer or septic tank. For example, Liberty Pumps of Bergen, N.Y. manufactures and sells sewage basin assemblies as the "370-Series" that comprise a polyethylene basin with an inlet nub adapted to be connected to a sewage source, a cover for the top of the basin, a pump mounted in the basin, and an outlet pipe extending from the pump to outside the cover. Such basins are rotationally molded in a multi-part mold having a part-line parallel to the basin bottom that dissects the body inlet nub. The various components also may be sold individually for custom assembly at a job site. The basin may be installed immediately beneath the foundation, for example, such that the top of the basin is flush with the foundation slab, or located underground beyond the foundation and backfilled with soil. In either case, the inlet to the ejector system is in connection with the sewage source, and the outlet is in connection with a line running to the public sewer, a septic tank or alternate sewage treatment device.

Heretofore, certain patents and publications have disclosed sewage basin assemblies, and related structures such as U.S. Pat. No. 6,305,410 of Cook et al., the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. This patent discloses a sewage ejector system including a basin and top cover. The basin body thereof includes a generally cylindrical wall, a closed bottom, and an open top.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,430,757 of Pohler discloses a self-contained bathroom waste collection and disposal unit having a reservoir configured to operably retain a pump and a float-operated switch. The reservoir cooperates with a primary

cover having plumbing and electrical access ports, and a secondary cover free of connecting ports that is readily removed to permit convenient access to the reservoir, including the switch (e.g., to replace the switch) and the pump inlet (e.g., to remove clogs). The unit further includes integral, molded features for retaining the switch and pump in an operable position, such as e.g., a boss on the cover prevents displacement of the pump, and molded-in torque stops prevent rotational movement of the pump; thereby absorbing the torque of the pump as it operates and correspondingly reducing stress on plumbing joints. The unit further includes molded-in strengthening collars and recesses sized to assist in transporting and installing the unit.

Although these and other sewage basin assemblies may operate in a satisfactory manner with respect to the basic sewage handling function, there is a need for better accessibility to the internal components of the sewage basins, and for a greater ease of assembly and adjustability of certain components. Opportunities remain for improvement of sewage basin assemblies in order to address problems heretofore unsolved. There is a need for a sewage basin assembly having in particular a cover that provides improved fastening means, gaskets and seals, electrical connections, and plumbing connections, in order to simplify the installation, plumbing, wiring, and general assembly thereof. There is also a need to provide a sewage handling system having a lower height such that in circumstances in which such enclosure is to be placed in a pit, such pit may be relatively shallow, thereby enabling installation of such enclosure in a location where the soil depth is minimal, or where the pit must be hewn in bedrock. There is also a need to provide a sewage handling system having modular electrical control components and mounting hardware therefor, in order to simplify and reduce the time of assembly of such components into the sewage handling system.

SUMMARY

In the present disclosure, one or more of these needs are met by providing a basin assembly comprised of a body comprising a bottom wall, a side wall, and an open top; a hanging feature formed in the body of the basin; and a hanging member suspended from the hanging feature within the body of the basin. The hanging feature of the basin and the hanging member may have various forms. The following are meant to be illustrative of such forms, and not limiting.

The hanging feature may be comprised of a vertical cavity, and the hanging member comprised of an elongated vertical section extending through the vertical cavity. The hanging feature may further include a horizontal portion, with the hanging member comprised of an elongated vertical section extending from an upper horizontal section, with the upper horizontal section disposed in the horizontal portion of the hanging feature. The horizontal portion of the hanging feature may be a horizontal channel. The hanging member may be a hook-shaped hanger rod including the upper horizontal section thereof disposed in the horizontal channel. The hanging feature may be comprised of an arcuate channel transitioning to the first vertical cavity, with the hanging member being comprised of an elongated vertical section extending from an arcuate-shaped upper section disposed in the arcuate channel of the hanging feature. In another embodiment, the hanging feature is comprised of a recessed pocket formed around a vertical cavity, and the hanging member is comprised of a flange disposed in the recessed pocket and an elongated vertical section extending through the vertical cavity.

3

The open top of the basin may include an annular flange, with the hanging feature formed in a shelf extending inwardly from the annular flange. The shelf and annular flange may be comprised of a downwardly extending lip which provides structural strength to the shelf and flange. Alternatively, the shelf including the hanging feature may extend inwardly from the side wall of the basin.

The basin assembly may be used for the handling of sewage or other liquids. In such applications, the liquid handling system is comprised of a basin assembly as described above, and a top cover fastenable to the open top of the basin. The open top of the basin may be comprised of an annular flange having a flat region, with the top cover being comprised of a perimeter including a lower annular edge surface fastenable to the annular flange. The top cover may include a flange surrounding an opening therein, with an access cover removably secured to the flange. The basin assembly may further comprise at least one level switch attached to the hanging member. The basin assembly may be further comprised of a pump disposed therein. The pump may be operatively connected by a discharge pipe to an opening in the top cover or in the basin side wall.

In accordance with the present disclosure, there is further provided a cover assembly for covering a vessel. The cover assembly comprises a main cover comprising a perimeter including a lower annular edge surface fastenable to an annular flange of a basin, at least a first opening connectable to a pipe, and a second opening surrounded by a first flat flange. An access cover is removably secured to the first flat flange of the main cover and comprises an engagement feature. The hanging or engagement feature may be comprised of a first vertical cavity and may further include a horizontal channel. A hook-shaped hanger rod may be engaged with the engagement feature of the access cover. The main cover may be comprised of at least one retaining member that is proximate to the hanging member when the access cover is fitted to the main cover. A liquid handling system including the above cover assembly may further include a basin for receiving a liquid, the basin comprising a body comprised of a bottom wall, a side wall, and an open top; and a level switch assembly comprising a hanging member engaged with the hanging feature of the access cover, and at least one level switch attached to the hanging member.

In another embodiment of a cover assembly of the present disclosure, the engagement or hanging feature may be comprised of a recessed pocket formed in one of the main cover and the access cover, with the hanging member comprising an elongated vertical section extending from an upper flange. The upper flange may be disposed in the recessed pocket of the engagement feature. In yet another embodiment of a cover assembly of the present disclosure, the engagement feature may be formed in one of the main cover and the access cover and may comprise an arcuate channel transitioning to a vertical cavity, with the hanger rod comprising an elongated vertical section extending from an arcuate-shaped upper section. The arcuate-shaped upper section may be disposed in the arcuate channel of the engagement feature.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Embodiments in the present disclosure will be described by reference to the following drawings, in which like numerals refer to like elements, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a sewage handling system including a basin, a structural cover, and a protective cover;

4

FIG. 2 is a partially exploded perspective view of the sewage handling system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cutaway perspective view of the sewage handling system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the sewage handling system cover and float switch assemblies depicted in FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is a cutaway perspective view of the main cover of FIG. 4 shown with the float support hanger rod of FIG. 4 engaged therewith;

FIG. 6 is a top view of the main cover and float switch assemblies of FIG. 4, with the access cover removed from such main cover;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the main cover and float switch assemblies of FIG. 2, taken from a vantage point below the lower portion of the main cover;

FIG. 8 is a top view of the main cover assembly of FIG. 2 in a fully assembled state;

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the main cover and float switch assemblies of FIG. 2 in a fully assembled state, taken from a vantage point that depicts the cord passageways there-through;

FIG. 10 is a side view of the main cover and float switch assemblies of FIG. 2 in a fully assembled state;

FIG. 11 is an exploded perspective view of a sewage handling system including a basin comprised of an integral hanging feature;

FIG. 12 is a cutaway perspective view of the basin of the sewage handling system of FIG. 11, showing a level switch assembly comprised of a hanging member engaged with the hanging feature of the basin;

FIG. 13 is a top view of the basin of FIG. 12, including the level switch assembly and the hanging member;

FIG. 14A is a lower perspective view of an access cover of a cover assembly, including a hanging feature formed in the access cover;

FIG. 14B is a bottom view of the access cover of FIG. 14A, taken along the line 14B-14B of FIG. 14A;

FIG. 14C is a perspective view of a cover assembly, including the access cover of FIG. 14A, taken from substantially the same vantage point as in FIG. 14A; and

FIG. 14D is a side elevation view of the cover assembly of FIG. 14C, taken along the line 14D-14D of FIG. 14C.

The inventions disclosed herein will be described in connection with preferred embodiments. However, it will be understood that there is no intent to limit the inventions to the embodiments described. On the contrary, the intent is to cover all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the inventions as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

For a general understanding of the present disclosure, reference is made to the drawings. In the drawings, like reference numerals have been used throughout to designate identical elements.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a sewage handling system including a basin, a structural cover, and a protective cover; FIG. 2 is a partially exploded perspective view of the sewage handling system of FIG. 1; and FIG. 3 is a cutaway perspective view of the sewage handling system of FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1-3 sewage handling system 10 comprises a sewage basin 100, cover assembly 200, and float switch assembly 400. Basin 100 contains a pump 20 to which is connected a discharge pipe 30, that in turn is connected to an outlet port 214 in main cover 210.

After assembly of sewage handling system **10** at a manufacturing site, and prior to shipping, sewage basin assembly **10** may be fitted with protective cover **80**, which provides protection to the cover assembly **200** of basin assembly **10** during shipping and during installation. The function of protective cover **80**, and the preferred materials of construction thereof are substantially the same as disclosed in commonly owned pending application U.S. Ser. No. 10/963,191 the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The general spatial relationships and functions of vessel or basin **100**, pump **20**, discharge pipe **30**, and cover **210** are substantially the same as is described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,305,410 of Cook et al. Basin **100** is preferably between about 18 and 36 inches high. In one preferred embodiment depicted in FIGS. 1-3, basin **100** is provided with a height of about 24 inches. In the embodiment depicted in FIGS. 1-3, basin **100** is preferably also provided with at least one flat **110** and/or one hub **112** for connection of inlet piping thereto. In one preferred embodiment, basin **100** is further provided with a network of facets **120** formed in the wall and around the circumference thereof, effectively forming a structure having vertical ribs as indicated by bidirectional arrow **199**, as well as horizontal ribs as indicated by bidirectional arrow **198**, for even greater structural strength. Basin **100** is generally shorter in height than other sewage basins and thus has the advantage of a compact shape, which enables the use thereof in locations where the soil depth above bedrock or other subsurface obstructions (roots, buried cables and/or utility piping, etc.) is less than about thirty inches.

Cover **210** is preferably fastened to a flat region **132** of annular flange **134** formed at the upper edge **130** of basin **100** by the use of bolts **140** which pass through holes **280** (see also FIG. **8**) in cover **210**, or other suitable fastening means. In one preferred embodiment, basin **100** is provided with threaded inserts **142** molded into flange **134**, for engagement with fasteners **140**. Cover **210** is preferably provided with holes to accept either 8 or 16 equally spaced fasteners around the perimeter thereof for securing cover **210** to basin **100**.

Cover assembly **200** and cover **210** are further provided with numerous advantageous features to be described presently with reference in particular to FIGS. **3**, **4**, and **8**. FIG. **4** is an exploded perspective view of the sewage handling system depicting cover assembly **200**, and FIG. **8** is a top view of the system cover assembly **200** in a fully assembled state. Referring to FIGS. **3**, **4**, and **8**, cover assembly **200** comprises main cover **210** and access/inspection cover **310**. Main cover **210** is provided with a flat flange **220** formed therein having a plurality of holes **222** and threaded inserts **224** (see also FIG. **5**) molded into flange **220**. Access cover **310** is also provided with a flat flange **320** having a plurality of holes **322** formed therein, such that access cover **310** may be secured to main cover **210** by bolts **380** when flange **320** is mated with flange **220**. The flange **220** may have shapes and orientations other than that depicted in FIGS. **3**, **4**, and **8**. For example, the flange **220** may have a conical shape, or a radiused shape, with the corresponding mating flange **320** of the access cover **310** having a matching shape such that the access cover **310** can be fitted to the flange **220**.

Cover assembly **200** further comprises a gasket **350** that is disposed between main cover **210** and access cover **310** to provide a liquid tight seal between such covers. The gasket may be pre-formed to a shape that matches the respective flanges **220** and **320** of the main cover **210** and the access cover **310**. Cover assembly **200** further comprises another gasket **250** that is disposed between main cover **210** and flat region **132** of flange **134** of basin **100** for a liquid tight seal therebetween. For the sake of simplicity of illustration in FIG.

4, gasket **250** is shown above cover **210**; however, it is to be understood that gasket **250** is disposed beneath cover **210** when cover **210** is fastened to basin **100**.

In the preferred embodiment, cover assembly **200** further comprises a lip seal **252** that seals discharge pipe **32** (see FIG. **2**) to outlet opening **214**. Referring to FIG. **2** and FIG. **7** in particular, outlet opening **214** of main cover **210** is formed as an elongated cylinder **215** that is reinforced by gussets **217**. Outlet opening **214** further comprises a hollow socket **223** into which discharge pipe **30** is inserted during assembly of system **10**. Lip seal **252** is disposed in cylindrical recess **225** and around discharge pipe **30**, thereby sealing discharge pipe **30** to cover **210**.

When sewage handling system **100** is installed and in operation, access cover **310** is easily removed from cover **210** without the need for disconnection of any piping or electrical components. Access cover **310** thus provides ready access to float switch assembly **400** (to be described subsequently herein) and to pump **20**, and for general inspection of the contents and condition of basin **100**. Access cover **310** is easily replaced and resealed to main cover **210** when the need for access to basin **100** is finished.

In the embodiment depicted in FIGS. **3**, **4**, and **8**, cover **210** is depicted as being provided with threaded outlet openings **212** and **214**, such as e.g. 2 inch pipe thread. Other suitable pipe connections may also be used, such as is described and shown in FIGS. 22A-23 of commonly owned U.S. provisional patent application U.S. Ser. No. 60/487,953 of Cook et al., the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Cover **210** is further provided with two flat recessed areas **216** and **218** to which product identification labels, such as e.g., label **219** of FIG. **3** may be fastened. Cover **210** is further provided with a plurality of ribs **240** disposed around the outer region thereof in the radial direction, which provide additional structural strength to cover **210**. The upper surfaces of ribs **240** are preferably sloped upwardly from the outer perimeter **211** to the flat region **213** of cover **210**. This upward slope is best seen with reference to FIG. **10**, and provides greater strength to withstand vertical loads upon cover **210**.

One of the more advantageous features of cover assembly **200** is the provision of cord sealing means integrated therein. This provision has eliminated the need for separate cord sealing fittings to be provided in cover assembly **200**. In one preferred embodiment, such cord sealing means is provided in the interface between main cover **210**, access cover **310**, and gasket **350** disposed therebetween, and is best understood with reference in particular to FIGS. **4**, **5**, and **9**. FIG. **5** is a cutaway perspective view of main cover **210** of FIG. **4** showing a portion of the cord sealing means, and FIG. **9** is a perspective view of cover assembly **200** in a fully assembled state, taken from a vantage point that depicts the cord passageways through the cord sealing means thereof, and the cords disposed therein. Referring to FIGS. **4** and **5**, main cover **210** is provided with a plurality of cord grooves in which cords such as e.g., cords **22**, **422**, and **472** may be disposed. In the preferred embodiment, main cover **210** is provided with lower cord grooves **262** and upper cord grooves **264**, with the lower cord grooves being beneath the level of flange **220**, and the upper cord grooves extending at an upward angle from near the level of flange **220** upwardly to the level of top surface **213** of cover **210**.

A gap is provided between the upper extremity of lower cord grooves **262** and the lower extremity of upper cord grooves **264**. In this gap there is formed a pocket **266** for receiving and holding a cord sealing portion **355** of cover gasket **350**. Although in FIG. **5**, for the sake of simplicity of

illustration, cords 472, 422, and 22 are depicted as being disposed directly into cord grooves 262 and 264, it is preferable that in the assembled state, cords 472, 422, and 22 are disposed between cord sealing portion 355 of access cover gasket 350 and cord seal block 352. Cover gasket 350 is also provided with a corresponding set of cord seal grooves 351 to match lower cord seal grooves 262 and to hold cords 22, 422, and 472; and cord seal block 352 is also provided with a corresponding set of cord seal grooves 353 on the outer side thereof to hold cords 22, 422, and 472. Access cover 310 is provided with a cord seal riser 340 with an angled flat surface formed on the outer side 341 thereof, i.e. the side opposite gusset 342, to match the flat surface on the inner side of cord seal block 352.

To assemble access cover 310 to main cover 210 and seal cords 472, 422, and 22 therebetween, cover gasket 350 is placed upon flange 220 of cover 210; cords 22, 422, and 472 are run through the opening 221 for access cover 310 and are pressed into cord seal grooves 351 of cover gasket 350; cord seal block is placed over cords 22, 422, and 472 and in contact with the cord sealing portion 355 of cover gasket 350, so that cords 22, 422, and 472 are disposed in the passageways 8 formed between cord seal grooves 351 of cover gasket 350 and cord seal grooves 353 of cord seal block 352; access cover 310 is placed upon main cover 210 with the flat surface of cord seal block 352 mated against the angled flat surface of the riser 340 of access cover 310; and bolts 380 are used to secure access cover 310 to main cover 210, thereby compressing gasket 350 therebetween. Referring to FIG. 9, which is a perspective view of cover assembly 200 taken from the angle at which the cords therein are upwardly disposed, it can be seen that cords 22, 422, and 472 are routed through holes 8 and are sealed between the cover gasket 350 and the cord seal block 352, by the clamping action of access cover 310 against main cover 210, which compresses gasket 350 and cord seal block 352 to provide such sealing action.

Referring again to FIGS. 4 and 9, and in a further embodiment, the applicant's cover assembly 210 is further provided with alarm control unit 390, which, during shipping to the installation site, is disposed upon access cover 310. When sewage handling system 10 is installed, alarm control unit 390 is mounted at a suitable location nearby, such as e.g., a nearby wall, or on a sheet metal panel or other suitable surface. Referring also to FIG. 5, in the preferred embodiment, the cord 422 of alarm level switch 420 is fed upwardly through one of the cord openings formed between cord sealing portion 355 of access cover gasket 350 and cord seal block 352, and into an opening 392 in alarm control unit 390 that is mounted nearby. (For the sake of simplicity of illustration, cord 422 is not shown disposed through opening 392 in FIG. 9. However, it is to be understood that cord 422 enters control unit 390 through opening 392 and is suitably sealed at such opening.)

Electrical wires (not shown) within cord 422 are connected to further electrical switching means such as e.g. an electromechanical relay, or to communication means such as e.g. a wireless transmitter. Such further electrical switching means or communication means is further connected to or in communication with various alarm indicating means such as e.g. a light, a horn, a computer or process controller, including a video display, and the like. In operation, when the liquid level in basin 100 becomes excessively high and floats level switch 420 upwardly, the contacts within level switch 420 change state (open-to-closed or vice-versa), and an alarm condition is indicated by the alarm indicating means.

A more detailed description of the level control means of the applicant's sewage handling system is now provided, such

level control means being one of the more advantageous features of sewage handling system 10. Such level control means is easily installable, removable, and adjustable. This provision, together with the provision of access cover 310, enables easy installation of level switches during assembly of sewage handling system 10, and subsequent removal, replacement, and/or adjustment at any time thereafter. In one preferred embodiment, such level control means comprises one or more float-type level switches mounted on a removable hanger rod, and is best understood with reference in particular to FIGS. 4-7 and FIG. 10. FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the sewage handling system cover assembly 200 and float switch assembly 400 depicted in FIG. 2; FIG. 5 is a cutaway perspective view of the main cover of FIG. 4 shown with the float support rod of float switch assembly 400 of FIG. 4 engaged therewith; FIG. 6 is a top view of the main cover and float switch assemblies of FIG. 4, with the access cover removed from such main cover in order to view float switch assembly 400 therebeneath; FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the main cover and float switch assemblies of FIG. 2, taken from a vantage point below the lower portion of the main cover; and FIG. 10 is a side view of the main cover and float switch assemblies of FIG. 2 in a fully assembled state.

Referring to FIGS. 4-7 and FIG. 10, float switch assembly 400 comprises hanger rod 410, a first float switch 420 and preferably a second float switch 470. Hanger rod is preferably formed as a hook with an inverted J-shape, and comprises an elongated vertical section 412, a cross bar section 414, and a short vertical section 416, with sections 412 and 414 and sections 414 and 416 being joined at junctions of approximately 90 degrees. In one preferred embodiment, hanger rod 410 is formed of a 5/16-inch diameter stainless steel rod that is bent to form the 90 degree junctions. In an alternate embodiment, (not shown), hanger rod may have a hook shape comprising a simple L-shape, wherein the horizontal portion of the L is engaged with an engagement feature in cover 210. In other embodiments (not shown), the hook shape may be formed as a T-shape, or as a small flange, with the operative requirement being that hanger rod hooks onto and is supported by an engagement feature in cover 210.

In the preferred embodiment depicted in FIGS. 4-7 and FIG. 10, elongated vertical section 412 of hanger rod 410 is provided for the securing and locating of float switches thereupon. The upper portion of elongated section 412, cross bar 414, and short vertical section 416 form a hook shape, which may be engaged with a suitable engagement feature in cover assembly 200. In the preferred embodiment, there is provided an engagement feature 230 in main cover 210 for the attachment and suspension of hanger rod 410 and float switch assembly 400 therebeneath. Referring again to FIGS. 5-7 and FIG. 10, engagement feature 230 comprises a first section 231 having a horizontal channel 233, which transitions to a vertical hole 232. First section 231 is formed to accommodate a portion of cross bar 414 and short vertical section 416, and the 90 degree elbow therebetween, of hanger rod 410. Engagement feature 230 further comprises second section 235 having horizontal channel 236, which transitions to vertical notch 237. Second section 235 is formed to accommodate a portion of cross bar 414 and elongated vertical section 412, and the 90 degree elbow therebetween, of hanger rod 410.

It will be apparent that alternatively, vertical hole 232 could instead be formed as a vertical slot similar to vertical notch 237, and still receive vertical section 416 of rod 410. It will be further apparent that rod 410 could be formed with a hook shape other than a right-angled J-shape, such as an arcuate J-shape, with the corresponding channel-and-notch or hole cavity structure being formed in a corresponding shape to

receive such hook shape. A right angle J is preferred, however, for ease of manufacturing. It will also be apparent that hook-shaped rod **410** could be provided with two elongated sections forming a U-shape, or even branches of elongated sections for the attachment of level control means, and other control means thereto.

Referring in particular to FIGS. **5** and **6**, in the assembled state, hanger rod **410** is engaged with engagement feature **230** of cover **210** such that short vertical section **416** is disposed in hole **232**, elongated section is disposed in notch **237**, and cross bar **414** is disposed in channels **233** and **236**. Thus hanger rod is easily and removably engaged with and hung from engagement feature **230** of cover **210**. For the sake of simplicity of illustration, float switches **420** and **470** are not depicted in FIG. **5**; however it is to be understood that in operation, at least one float switch, and preferably two float switches are provided as depicted in FIGS. **2-4**, **6-7**, and **9-10**. In the preferred embodiment wherein two float switches **420** and **470** are present, the lower of the two float switches, i.e., float switch **470** is used for on-off operation of pump **20** (see FIG. **2**), and the higher of the two float switches, i.e., float switch **420** is used as an alarm switch that provides an indication of when basin **100** is excessively full, and possible intervention is required.

Referring now in particular to FIG. **10**, and in the preferred embodiment depicted therein, cord **422** of float switch **420** is secured to elongated vertical rod **412** by clamp **426**, or by other suitable means, such as plastic cable ties and the like. In like manner, cord **472** of float switch **470** is secured to elongated vertical rod **410** by clamp **476**. Clamps **426** and **476** secure flexible cords **422** and **472** to elongated vertical rod such that floats **424** and **474** rise and fall vertically as indicated by arrows **499** and **498** respectively. Cords **422** and **472** are flexible and act as tethers to floats **424** and **474**. Thus, such floats also rotate such that the central axes of such floats are oriented in a "downward" direction when the liquid level is beneath such floats, i.e. the cord end **423** of float **424** faces upwardly, and cord end **473** of float **474** faces upwardly. When the liquid level rises above the attachment points of clamps **426** and **476**, floats **424** and **474** rotate such that the central axes of such floats are oriented in an "upward" direction, i.e. the cord end **423** of float **424** faces downwardly, and cord end **473** of float **474** faces downwardly. Switching means are contained within floats **424** and **474** so that at some point during these rotational transitions, electrical contacts are switched, indicating the rising or falling of liquid level above or below such float switches. It is to be understood that in FIGS. **2-10**, cords **22**, **422**, and **472** are shown as being terminated near their respective components, but that such cords run continuously up through the cord sealing means described herein.

It will be apparent that many different types of float switches may be affixed to rod **412** to provide level control capability for system **10**. By way of illustration, and not limitation, a Model 61130A0 10PMD1WP float switch manufactured by the SJE-Rhombus Corporation of Detroit Lakes, Minn. may be used. For the sake of simplicity of illustration in the drawings provided herein, the cords of such float switches are not shown. However, it is to be understood that in FIGS. **2-10**, cords **22**, **422**, and **472** run continuously up through the cord sealing means described herein.

In one embodiment, float switch assembly **400** of sewage handling system **10** is provided with only a single float switch, which functions to provide switching for on-off operation of pump **20** (see FIG. **2**). However, in the preferred embodiment depicted in the drawings herein, there is provided a system **10** with a float switch assembly **400** having

two switches **420** and **470**. In operation, the function of upper switch **420** is to provide high liquid level alarm capability, and the function of lower switch **470** is to provide switching for on-off operation of pump **20** as recited previously. It will be apparent that the level setpoints of each of these switches **420** and **470** may be varied by adjusting the positions thereof on elongated vertical rod **412**. In the preferred embodiment, rod **412** is provided with a plurality of notches **411**, **413**, etc., or other suitable reference etchings or indicia for the desired placement of float switches **420** and **470** on rod **412**.

It will also be apparent that alternatively, such engagement feature **230** could be provided in access cover **310**, so that when access cover **310** is unbolted and lifted from cover **210**, level switch assembly **400** is also removed from basin **100**. It is preferable, however, that level switch assembly **400** be left in place, and that the removal of access cover **310** simply provides access to level switch assembly **400** and other components of basin **100**.

In the preferred embodiment depicted in the drawings herein, wherein sewage handling system **10** comprises a pump **20**, a first float switch **420** and a second float switch **470**, there is a total of three cords **22**, **424**, and **474** (see FIG. **5**) to be sealed by the cord sealing means described herein. In the event that system **10** is provided with a pump **20** and only one float switch **420**, and only two cords **22** and **424** to be sealed, access cover gasket **350** is provided with a hinged finger **357** that may be placed in one of cord sealing grooves **351** of gasket **350**. Referring to FIGS. **4** and **6**, sealing finger **357** is formed as an integral part of gasket **350**, and is hingably attached thereto. If only two cords are present to be sealed in cord sealing grooves **351**, sealing finger **357** is hingably rotated upwardly as indicated by arrow **399** of FIG. **4**, and is disposed in the corresponding sealing groove, thereby plugging such sealing groove when access cover **310** is secured to main cover **210**.

In accordance with the present disclosure, there is further provided a basin for use in liquid handling, such as sewage handling. The basin is comprised of a bottom wall, a side wall, and an open top, and a hanging feature formed in the body of the basin. A basin assembly for liquid handling may include the basin, and a hanging member suspended from the hanging feature within the body of the basin. One or more level switches may be attached to the hanging member. A sewage handling system may include the basin assembly, and a top cover fastenable to the open top of the basin. The basin, basin assembly, and sewage handling system will now be described, and are best understood with reference to FIGS. **11-13**.

Referring first to FIG. **11**, a system **11** for handling sewage or other liquids is comprised of a basin **101** and a cover assembly **201**. The system **11** may further include a level switch assembly **401**. The system **11** and cover assembly **201** are similar to the system **10** of FIGS. **1-3** and cover assembly **200** of FIG. **4**, but differ significantly in certain regards. Firstly, the cover assembly **201** is not provided with an engagement feature for suspending a hanging member and level switches attached thereto. The top cover **209** of the system **11** of FIG. **11** lacks such an engagement feature, in contrast to the engagement feature **230** of the main cover **210** of the cover assembly **200** of FIG. **4**; nor does the access cover **310** have such an engagement feature. Secondly, the basin **101** of the system **11** includes a hanging feature **150** for receiving and suspending the hanging member **415** and level switches **420** and **470** attached thereto. The basin **100** of the system **10** of FIG. **2** lacks such a hanging feature.

Referring now to FIGS. **12** and **13**, a basin **101** is provided that may be similar to basin **100** of FIGS. **1-3**, but further

11

comprises a hanging feature 150. The hanging feature 150 may be formed in a structure which extends radially inwardly proximate to the open top of the basin 101. The open top of the basin 101 may include an annular flange 134, with the hanging feature 150 being formed in a shelf 152 extending inwardly from the annular flange 134. The annular flange 134 may include a flat region 132, and the shelf 152 and annular flange 134 may be further comprised of a downwardly extending lip 154 that provides structural strength to the flange 134 and shelf 152, thereby making the shelf 152 sufficiently strong to support objects suspended therefrom. In another embodiment (not shown), the shelf 152 extends inwardly from the side wall 102 of the basin 101 instead of from annular flange 134.

A basin assembly may include the basin 101 and a hanging member 415 suspended from the hanging feature 150. The hanging feature of the basin and the hanging member may have various forms. In general, the shape of the hanging feature 150 and the hanging member 415 are formed to match each other, such that the hanging feature 150 receives the hanging member 415. The better the match of the respective shapes of the hanging feature 150 and the hanging member 415, the more firmly the hanging member 415 is secured in the hanging feature 150. The following are meant to be illustrative of such forms of the hanging feature 150 and the hanging member 415, and not limiting.

The hanging feature 150 may be comprised of a vertical cavity, and the hanging member 415 comprised of an elongated vertical section extending through the vertical cavity. In the basin 101 of FIGS. 12 and 13, the hanging feature 150 is comprised of a vertical cavity 156, with the hanging member 415 comprised of an elongated vertical section 412 extending downwardly through the vertical cavity 156. The vertical cavity 156 may be formed as a notch, such that the elongated vertical section 412 may be moved laterally into the notch when installing the hanging member 415 into the hanging feature 150. Alternatively, the vertical cavity 156 may be a through hole in the shelf 152. The hanging feature 150 may further include a horizontal portion or portions 158, with the hanging member 415 comprised of the elongated vertical section 412 extending from an upper horizontal section 414, the upper horizontal section 414 being disposed in the horizontal portion 158 of the hanging feature 150. The horizontal portion 158 of the hanging feature 150 may be a horizontal channel. The hanging member 415 may be a hook-shaped hanger rod including the upper horizontal section 414 thereof disposed in the horizontal portion 158. The hanging feature 150 may be further comprised of a second vertical cavity 160, which receives a second vertical section 416 of the hanging member. The hanging feature 150 may be further comprised of a recessed pocket 162 formed in the shelf 152. This pocket 162 provides clearance for a user's fingers to enable easy gripping and release of the hanging member 415 when a user is installing or removing the hanging member 415 into or out from the hanging feature 150.

In another embodiment (not shown), the hanging feature 150 may be comprised of an arcuate channel transitioning to the first vertical cavity 156, and the hanging member 415 may be comprised of an elongated vertical section 412 extending from an arcuate-shaped upper section disposed in the arcuate channel of the hanging feature 150. In another embodiment (not shown), the hanging feature 150 may be comprised of a recessed pocket formed around a vertical cavity, and the hanging member may be comprised of a flange disposed in the recessed pocket, with the elongated vertical section 412 of the hanging member extending downwardly from the flange through the vertical cavity.

12

The basin 101 and basin assembly including the hanging member 415 may be used for the handling of sewage or other liquids. In such applications, the liquid handling system 11 FIG. 3) may be comprised of a basin assembly as described above, and a top cover 209 that is fastenable to the open top of the basin 101. The open top of the basin may be comprised of an annular flange 134 having a flat region 132, with the top cover 209 being comprised of a perimeter including a lower annular edge surface fastenable to the annular flange. The top cover 209 may include a flange 220 surrounding an opening 221 therein, with an access cover 310 removably secured to the flange 220. A gasket 350 and cord seal block 352 may be further provided to provide a seal between the top cover 209 and the access cover 310, and to provide sealing around one or more cords passing between the top cover 209 and the access cover 310. These respective structures of the top cover 209, the access cover 310, the gasket 350, and the cord seal 352 may be substantially the same as those previously described herein with reference to FIGS. 4-10.

Referring again to FIGS. 11-13, in the instance wherein the cover assembly is comprised of a top cover 101 having a flange 220 surrounding an opening 221 therein with an access cover 310 removably secured to the flange 220, the shelf 152 may be provided with a recess 164 that is located and formed to match the shape of the access cover 310. In that manner, clearance in the shelf 162 is provided for the access cover 310, which may be recessed into the top cover as shown in FIG. 11.

The basin assembly 11 may further comprise at least one level switch 420 attached to the hanging member 415. The basin assembly 11 may be further comprised of a pump 20 (FIG. 2) disposed therein. The pump 20 may be operatively connected by a discharge pipe to an opening in the top cover 209 or in the side wall 102 of the basin 101. The provision of the access cover 310 in the top cover 209 enables easy installation of and access to the hanging member 415 and the level switches 420 and 470 attached thereto, without having to disconnect any piping connected to or passing through the top cover 209.

In accordance with the present disclosure, there is further provided a cover assembly for covering a vessel. The cover assembly comprises a main cover comprising a perimeter including a lower annular edge surface fastenable to an annular flange of a basin, at least a first opening connectable to a pipe, and a second opening surrounded by a first flat flange. An access cover is removably secured to the first flat flange of the main cover and comprises a hanging feature for suspending a hanging member therefrom.

In one embodiment, the hanging feature of the access cover may be formed in a similar manner to the engagement feature 230 of the main cover 210. This configuration of a hanging or engagement feature 230 of a main cover 210 has been previously described herein and shown in FIGS. 4-10. In another embodiment, the hanging feature may be formed in the access cover such that the hanging member disposed therein may be held in place when the access cover is joined to the top or main cover. An access cover with such a hanging feature, and a cover assembly including the access cover will now be described, and are best understood with reference to FIGS. 14A-14D.

Referring first to FIGS. 14A and 14B, an access cover 311 is provided that is similar to access cover 310 shown in FIGS. 4 and 7-9 and described previously herein. Access cover 311 is further comprised of a hanging feature 313 for receiving a hanging member 415 therefrom. The hanging feature 313 and the hanging member 415 may have various forms. As described previously for hanging feature 150 of basin 101 (FIG. 11), the shape of the hanging feature 313 and the hang-

13

ing member 415 are formed to match each other, such that the hanging feature 313 receives the hanging member 415. The following are meant to be illustrative of such forms of the hanging feature 313 and the hanging member 415, and not limiting.

The hanging feature 313 may be comprised of a vertical cavity, and the hanging member 415 comprised of an elongated vertical section extending through the vertical cavity. In the access cover 311 of FIGS. 14A and 14B, the hanging feature 311 is comprised of a vertical cavity or notch 315, with the hanging member 415 comprised of an elongated vertical section 412 extending downwardly through the vertical cavity 315. The vertical cavity 315 may be formed as a channel. The hanging feature 313 may further include a horizontal portion 317, with the hanging member 415 comprised of the elongated vertical section 412 extending from an upper horizontal section 414, the upper horizontal section 414 being disposed in the horizontal portion 317 of the hanging feature 313. The horizontal portion 317 of the hanging feature 313 may be a horizontal channel. The hanging member 415 may be a hook-shaped hanger rod including the upper horizontal section 414 thereof disposed in the horizontal portion 317. The hanging feature 313 may be further comprised of a second vertical cavity 319, which receives a second vertical section 416 of the hanging member. In one embodiment, the hanging member 414 may be partially embedded or fully embedded within the hanging feature 313 during the process of molding the access cover 311.

In another embodiment (not shown), the hanging feature 313 may be comprised of an arcuate channel transitioning to the first vertical cavity 315, and the hanging member 415 may be comprised of an elongated vertical section 412 extending from an arcuate-shaped upper section disposed in the arcuate channel of the hanging feature 313. In yet another embodiment (not shown), the hanging feature 313 may be a T-shaped cavity comprised of a horizontal upper channel, and a vertical channel extending downwardly from the horizontal channel. In such an instance, the hanging member may be a T-shaped rod formed to match the T-shaped cavity. For the above embodiments, to install the hanging member 415 into the hanging feature 313, the hanging member 415 is simply aligned with the hanging feature 313 and moved laterally into it. The hanging feature 313 may be sized slightly smaller than the hanging member 415, so that the hanging member 415 is retained in the hanging feature 313 by a mild interference fit therein.

The hanging feature 313 of the access cover 311 may be provided in a variety of locations in the lower portion of the access cover. One location may be proximate to the outer perimeter of the access cover 311, as shown in FIGS. 14A-14B. This outward location is accessible, as will now be explained with reference to FIGS. 14C and 14D. With the hanging feature located thusly, one or more retaining members 226 and 228 can be provided in the top cover 208, such that when the access cover 311 is fitted to the top cover 208, the retaining members 226 and 228 are proximate, i.e. in contact or nearly in contact with a portion of the hanging member 415 at or proximate to the hanging feature 313. In that manner, the joining of the access cover 311 to the main cover 208 secures the hanging member 415 within the hanging feature 313; its removal or dislodging is blocked by the retaining members 226 and 228 provided that they are positioned from the hanging feature 313 of the access cover 311 a distance that is less than the thickness of the hanging member 415.

The top cover 208 may be similar to cover 210 of FIGS. 2-10, but with at least one retaining member 226 provided for

14

retaining the hanging member 415 in the hanging feature 313. The retaining members 226 and 228 may be formed as gussets, each of which has a substantially vertical surface (e.g. surface 227 of FIG. 14D), which is in contact or nearly in contact with the elongated vertical section 412 of the hanging member 415. It will be apparent that the retaining member may be provided in other forms, e.g. the retaining member may be a horizontal portion of material formed in the top cover 208 which is in contact or nearly in contact with the horizontal section 414 of the hanging member 415. It will be further apparent that the location of the hanging feature 313 and the hanging member suspended from it may be further inwardly disposed from the outer perimeter of the access cover 311, provided that the at least one retaining member 226 is inwardly disposed by a corresponding distance so as to provide the function of retaining the hanging member 415 in the hanging feature 313 as previously described.

In another embodiment (not shown), the hanging feature 313 may be provided in the main cover 208 in a manner similar to that described for access cover 311. The basin 100 (FIG. 2) may include the corresponding at least one retaining member formed in the side wall or in the flange thereof.

A liquid handling system including the above cover assembly may further include a basin for receiving a liquid, and a level switch assembly comprising at least one level switch attached to the hanger member, and a pump disposed in the basin. The basin, level switch assembly, and pump may be as described previously herein and shown in FIGS. 1-10.

It is therefore apparent that there has been provided, in accordance with the present disclosure, a liquid handling system, a basin cover assembly, a basin assembly, and a modular, easily installable, removable, and adjustable level control assembly for a liquid handling system. While the inventions of this disclosure have been described in conjunction with preferred embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications and variations that fall within the spirit and broad scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A basin assembly for receiving a liquid, the basin assembly comprising:

- a. a one piece molded body comprising a bottom wall, a side wall, an open top, and a hanging feature formed in a shelf extending in an inward direction from the side wall proximate to the open top and comprising a recessed horizontal portion adjacent to a vertical cavity;
- b. a hanging member formed to match the hanging feature and suspended therefrom within the body of the basin, the hanging member comprising a horizontal section disposed in the recessed horizontal portion of the hanging feature and an elongated rod joined to the horizontal section and extending downwardly from the hanging feature; and
- c. a level switch attached to the hanging member.

2. The basin assembly of claim 1, wherein the recessed horizontal portion of the hanging feature is a horizontal channel, and the hanging member is a hook-shaped hanger rod including the horizontal section disposed in the horizontal channel.

3. The basin assembly of claim 1, wherein the recessed portion of the hanging feature is a recessed pocket formed around the vertical cavity, and the hanging member is comprised of a flange disposed in the recessed pocket and joined to the elongated rod.

15

4. The basin assembly of claim 1, wherein the recessed horizontal portion of the hanging feature is comprised of an arcuate channel transitioning to the vertical cavity, and the hanging member is comprised of an arcuate-shaped upper section disposed in the arcuate channel of the hanging feature. 5

5. The basin assembly of claim 1, wherein the shelf is comprised of a downwardly extending lip.

6. The basin assembly of claim 1, further comprising a top cover fastenable to the open top of the body.

7. The basin assembly of claim 6, wherein the open top of the body is comprised of an annular flange having a flat region, and the top cover is comprised of a perimeter including a lower annular edge surface fastenable to the annular flange. 10

8. The basin assembly of claim 6, further comprising an access cover removably secured to a flange surrounding an opening in the top cover. 15

9. The basin assembly of claim 8, further comprising a gasket disposed between the flange of the top cover and the access cover, the gasket comprising a cord seal disposed between the top cover and the access cover. 20

10. The basin assembly of claim 8, wherein the flange is a flat flange.

11. The basin assembly of claim 8, wherein the flange is a radiused flange. 25

12. The basin assembly of claim 6, further comprising a pump disposed within the body.

13. The basin assembly of claim 1, wherein the hanging member is unsupported by the bottom wall of the body.

14. A liquid handling system comprising: 30

a) a basin for receiving a liquid, the basin comprising a one piece molded body comprised of a bottom wall, a side wall, an open top, and a hanging feature formed in a shelf extending in an inward direction from the side wall proximate to the open top and comprising a recessed horizontal portion adjacent to a vertical cavity; 35

b) a hanging member formed to match the hanging feature and suspended therefrom within the body of the basin, the hanging member comprising a horizontal section

16

disposed in the recessed horizontal portion of the hanging feature and an elongated rod joined to the horizontal section and extending downwardly from the hanging feature; and

c) a pump disposed within the body.

15. The liquid handling system of claim 14, further comprising a level switch attached to the hanging member.

16. The liquid handling system of claim 14, wherein the hanging member is unsupported by the bottom wall of the body.

17. The basin assembly of claim 1, wherein the elongated rod is suspended from the hanging feature in a fixed position relative to the body of the assembly, and wherein the level switch is attached to an exterior surface of the elongated rod. 15

18. The liquid handling system of claim 14, wherein the elongated rod is suspended from the hanging feature in a fixed position relative to the body of the system, and wherein the level switch is attached to an exterior surface of the elongated rod. 20

19. A basin assembly for receiving a liquid, the basin assembly comprising:

a. a one piece body comprising a bottom wall, a side wall, an open top, and a hanging feature formed in a shelf extending in an inward direction from the side wall proximate to the open top and comprising a recessed horizontal portion adjacent to a vertical cavity;

b. a hanging member formed to match the hanging feature and suspended therefrom within the body of the basin, the hanging member comprising a horizontal section disposed in the recessed horizontal portion of the hanging feature and an elongated rod suspended in a fixed position relative to the body, having an exterior, and extending downwardly from the hanging feature; and

c. a level switch attached to the exterior of the elongated rod.

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