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[54] **METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR LAYING FLUID DISTRIBUTION LINES**

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **B65H 49/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **242/557**; 266/101; 137/236.1; 137/355.26

[58] **Field of Search** 242/557; 239/736, 239/751, 752, 753; 137/236.1, 355.16, 355.17, 355.26; 254/134.3 R; 266/101; 75/712; 104/173.1, 173.2; 212/76, 77, 83, 93, 98

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus for laying fluid distribution lines along a surface are disclosed. An overhead support cable is secured between a plurality of anchoring devices spaced along the surface. A rotatable installation reel is then coupled to the overhead support cable and a coil of fluid distribution line is loaded on the installation reel. Fluid distribution line is laid along the surface by moving the installation reel along the overhead support cable so as to rotate the installation reel to pay out the fluid distribution line along the surface. Subsequent fluid distribution lines may be laid at substantially equal lateral spacings by moving each anchoring device or a portion of each anchoring device prior to laying each subsequent fluid distribution line.

29 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

