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The inlet/outlet positions **45, 46** may be reversed depending on designs of specific power plants. A similar inlet/outlet plumbing arrangement may be used to distribute the oxidant to the fuel cell.

The inlet/outlet plumbing **33** may be fabricated from metals, plastics or reinforced plastics, rubbers and filled rubbers, that are selected to have a low permeability to the reactant fluid.

Although shown simplistically as the chamber **28**, the fuel inlet to the fuel reactant gas flow fields of the fuel cells may in fact comprise a cascade fuel inlet manifold as disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/269,654, filed Oct. 10, 2002. Alternatively, some other form of inlet fuel distributor may be utilized to assure uniform distribution of fuel to all of the fuel cells. All of this is irrelevant to the present invention.

The aforementioned patent application is incorporated herein by reference.

Thus, although the invention has been shown and described with respect to exemplary embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and various other changes, omissions and additions may be made therein and thereto, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

We claim:

1. A fuel cell power plant, comprising:

a pair of fuel cell stacks, each of said fuel cell stacks having a reactant gas inlet/outlet manifold, said fuel cell stacks being disposed side by side so that the reactant gas inlet/outlet manifold of one of said stacks is adjacent a reactant gas turn manifold of the other one of said stacks; each of said reactant gas inlet/outlet

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manifolds having a reactant gas inlet and a reactant gas outlet which are accessible from a first face of said inlet/outlet manifold or from a second face of said inlet/outlet manifold which is opposite to said first face;

a fuel plumbing arrangement interconnected between a reactant gas supply pipe and said inlet/outlet manifold inlets, said plumbing interconnecting with one of said inlets on a first face of a first one of said inlet/outlet manifolds and interconnecting with another of said inlets on a second face of a second one of said inlet/outlet manifolds, and exhaust plumbing extending, from an outlet on said first face of said first inlet/outlet manifold and from an outlet on said second face of said second inlet/outlet manifold, to an exhaust pipe; and a pair of seal plates, one disposed on said second face of said first inlet/outlet manifold and one disposed on said first face of said second inlet/outlet manifold, whereby to close off said inlet/outlet manifolds.

2. A power plant according to claim **1** wherein said reactant gas inlet/outlet manifolds are fuel inlet/outlet manifolds.

3. A power plant according to claim **1** wherein said plumbing includes flexible tubing extending between the inlet of one of said inlet/outlet manifolds and the inlet of the other of said inlet/outlet manifolds, and comprises flexible tubing extending from the outlet of one of said inlet/outlet manifolds to the outlet of another of said inlet/outlet manifolds, whereby to accommodate dimensional variations in fuel cell stacks.

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