POPPET VALVE ASSEMBLY AND COMPRESSOR HAVING SAME

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/922,923, entitled "Poppet Valve Assembly", filed on April 11, 2007, which is herein incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to valve assemblies. More particularly, the present invention relates to a novel poppet valve assembly for use with various flow control systems, including compression systems.

BACKGROUND

[0003] This section is intended to introduce the reader to various aspects of art that may be related to various aspects of the present invention, which are described and/or claimed below. This discussion is believed to be helpful in providing the reader with background information to facilitate a better understanding of the various aspects of the present invention. Accordingly, it should be understood that these statements are to be read in this light, and not as admissions of prior art.

[0004] As will be appreciated, fluids, such as natural gas and air, have a wide array of uses in industrial and commercial applications. For instance, natural gas may be used to provide power to a range of vehicles, to heat homes during winter, and to operate various consumer appliances, such as ovens or clothes dryers. Further, natural gas may be used to generate electricity for distribution over a power grid, and may be used in the