



# Memorandum

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**To:** A. R. Kerr  
S. -K. Pan  
K. Crady

**cc:** J. Webber

**From:** J. Effland

**Date:** 4 January 1999

**Subject:** Status Report for Automating SIS Mixer Measurements

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## 1. Hardware

Several chassis are currently being constructed for use in Pan's rack and the new JT-1 rack. Most of the chassis contain a number of printed circuit boards (PCB's) that are also being built. The status of each chassis is documented in Table 1 below.

The latest system, chassis, and board-level schematics are attached. A Table of Contents at the beginning of the schematics serves as an aid to understanding their hierarchy.

## 2. Software

While waiting for parts to be delivered for the hardware work, work continued on implementing the Access-based measurement system. This differs from the Excel-based measurement system, which is considered to be an interim solution until the Access-based system is working.

The first phase of the Access-based system will concentrate on measuring, storing, and retrieving pumped and unpumped bias data. Bias measurements as a function of magnet current is a straight-forward extension of the pumped and unpumped measurements and will be developed after them, because a programmable power supply is available.

This project can be broken into three main areas:

1. Measurement user interface (this includes storing and retrieving data from the database)
2. Hardware interface
3. Spreadsheet results program

The measurement user interface is the program that allows the user to set up and run a measurement. This task includes coding to store and retrieve data from the database. The hardware interface is that section of the program that deals with controlling the instruments, and includes routines to repetitively compute the mean from a number of measurements until the standard deviation is below acceptable limits. The spreadsheet results program is the mechanism that will be used to retrieve, plot, and analyze measured data using Microsoft Excel.

Effort during the last three calendar weeks has focused on building the measurement user interface. Figure 1 shows the dialog box that is presented to the user when the measurement program is run. The top section entitled "Mixer ID" allows either the entry of a new mixer ID or the selection and recall of setup data for an existing mixer.

The control with the text "227: 68/71" is the database record selector that allows selection of a particular mixer, and it shows that record 68 has been selected out of a total of 71 records. The number 227 is the mixer record ID.

The middle section, entitled "Measurement Info," allows one to enter descriptive text and select a particular measurement from the "Meas Type" drop-down dialog box. Each record in the top "Mixer ID" area can contain an unlimited number of records in the "Measurement Info" section. An existing mixer can be selected and additional measurements run on it as defined in the middle section by pressing the "New Measurement" button. The control in this section with the text "163: 1/1" is another database record selector to allow selection of a measurement given a particular mixer, and shows that the current measurement record is number 1, and there is only a single measurement record for this mixer. The record ID for this measurement is 163.

The bottom section entitled "by stepping" defines which parameters are stepped, the order that each is stepped, and limits and step sizes for each. Parameters that remain constant during a measurement have a single text box associated with them in the bottom section. In the example of Figure 1, the LO frequency and Magnet current are fixed during the measurement. The bottom section is linked to the "Meas Type" drop-down box located in the middle section, in that when a particular measurement type is selected, the appropriate parameters are set to either vary or to be fixed.

**Table 1: SIS Measurement System Project Status**

Area	Details	Notes and Status
<b>Software Development</b>		
General Access-Based Measurement System		
Measurement user interface		Code written for the following measurements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bias Measurement with manual stepping of LO power</li> <li>2. Bias Measurement with stepping of Magnet current</li> </ol>
Hardware Interface		Will use most drivers from the interim Excel-based measurement system, but this remains untested. Driver code required for programmable power supply.
Spreadsheet results program		To be developed from prototype created in October.
Interim Measurement System using Excel Interface		Ready to be tested with real mixers.
<b>Hardware Development</b>		
Coax Switch Control Chassis		
	Power Supply and Noise Diode Source PCB	Parts and board received. Board being stuffed.
	Switch Controller PCB	Parts and board received. Board being stuffed.
	Switch Driver PCB	Board received, parts on order.
	Chassis wiring and construction	
Digital Interface and Refrigerator Chassis		
	Multiplexer & Refrig Control PCB	Board ready to be picked up, parts on order.
	VLBA Sensor Card	Complete board obtained from Socorro
	Chassis wiring and construction	
<b>Rack Construction</b>		
Pan's Rack		
JT-1		

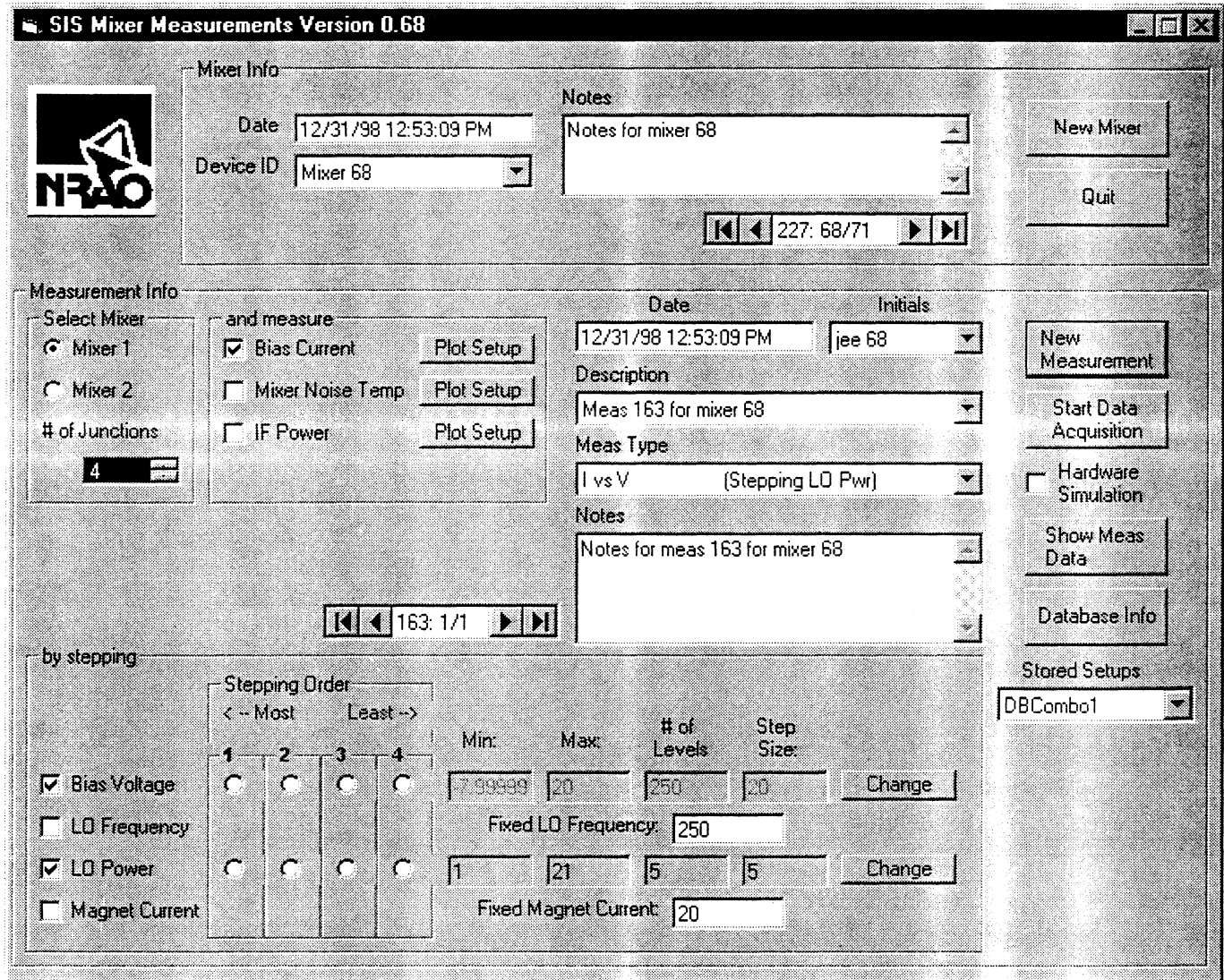
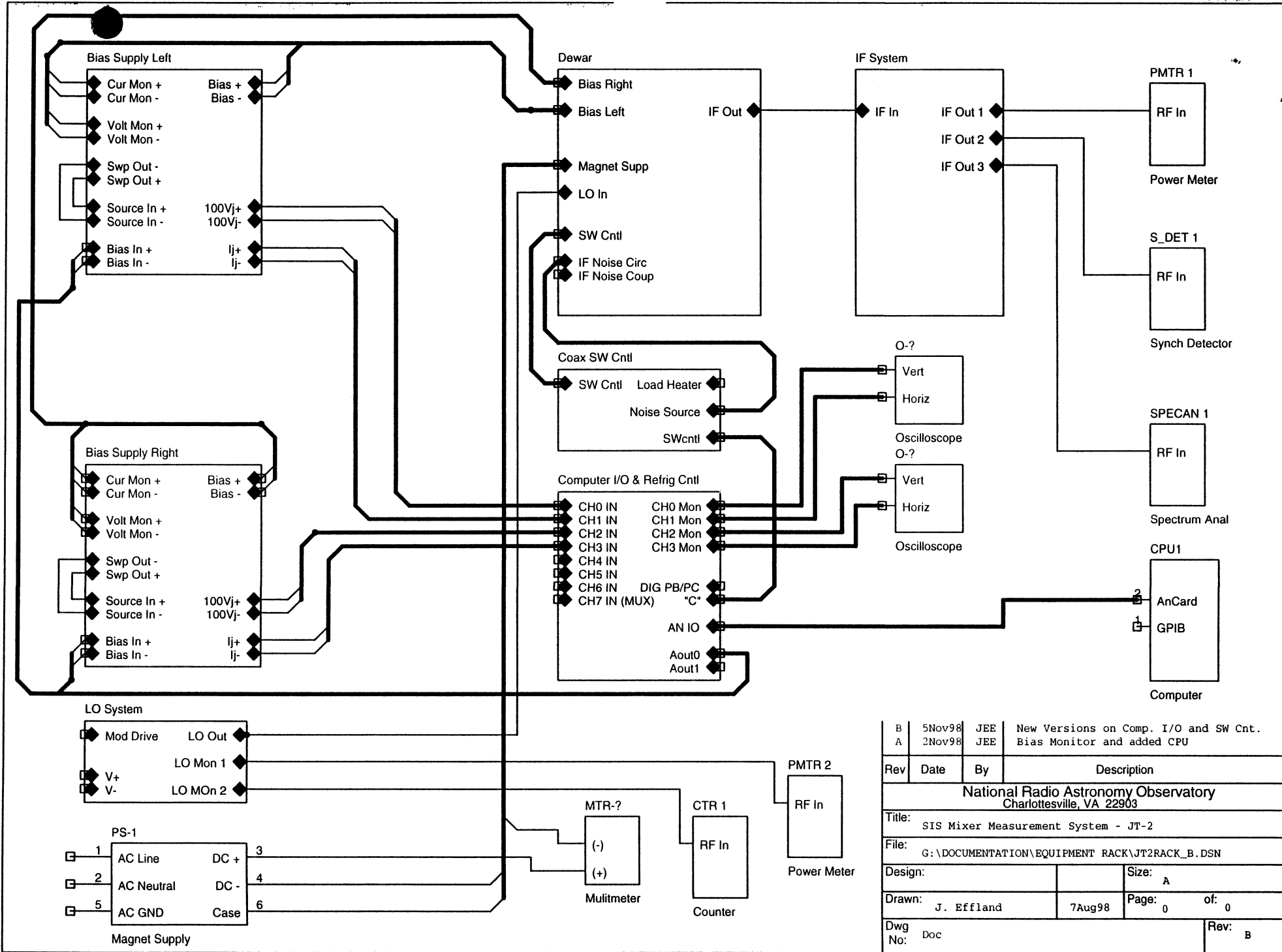


Figure 1 : Dialog Box for Data Acquisition System

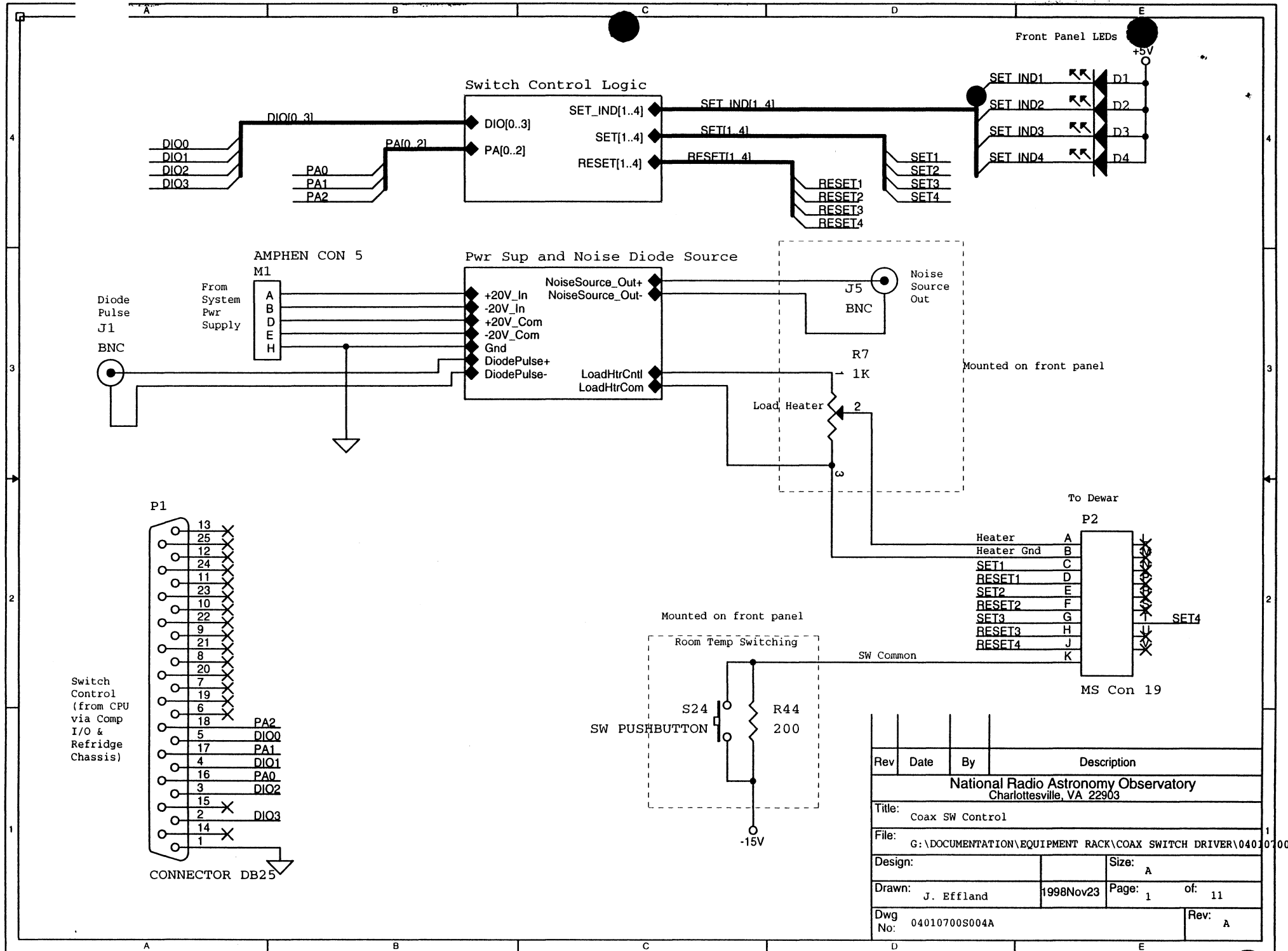
## Schematic Hierarchy

1.	OVERALL.....	1-1
1.1	COAX SWITCH CONTROL.....	1-2
1.1.1	<i>Power Supply and Noise Diode Source</i> .....	1-3
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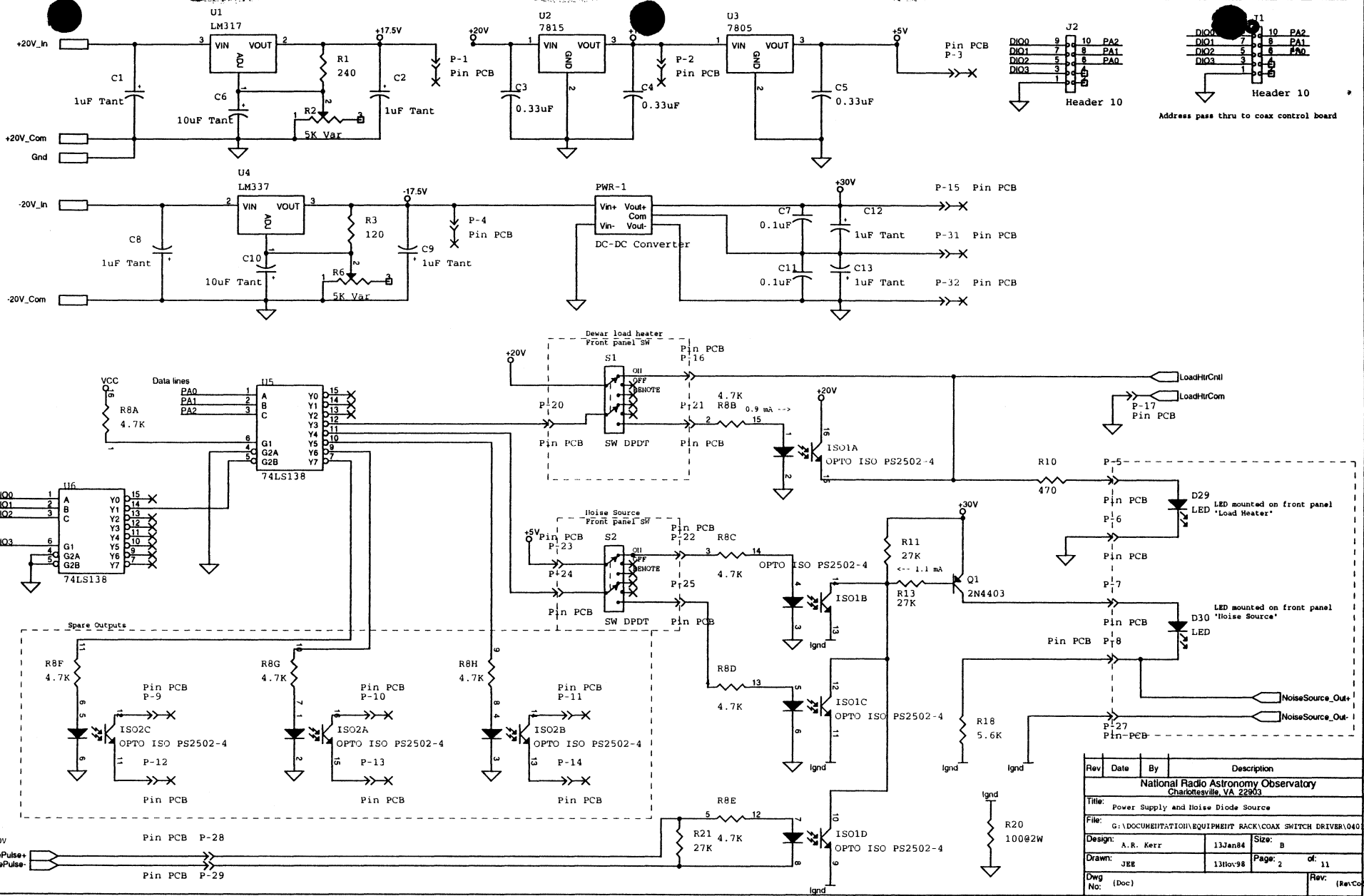
B	5Nov98	JEE	New Versions on Comp. I/O and SW Cnt. Bias Monitor and added CPU
A	2Nov98	JEE	
Rev	Date	By	Description
National Radio Astronomy Observatory Charlottesville, VA 22903			
Title: SIS Mixer Measurement System - JT-2			
File: G:\DOCUMENTATION\EQUIPMENT RACK\JT2RACK_B.DSN			
Design:		Size:	A
Drawn: J. Effland		7Aug98	Page: 0 of 0
Dwg No: Doc			Rev: B

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Rev	Date	By	Description
			<b>National Radio Astronomy Observatory</b> Charlottesville, VA 22903
Title: Coax SW Control			
File: G:\DOCUMENTATION\EQUIPMENT RACK\COAX SWITCH DRIVER\04010700S			
Design:		Size: A	
Drawn: J. Effland		1998Nov23 Page: 1 of: 11	
Dwg No: 04010700S004A			Rev: A

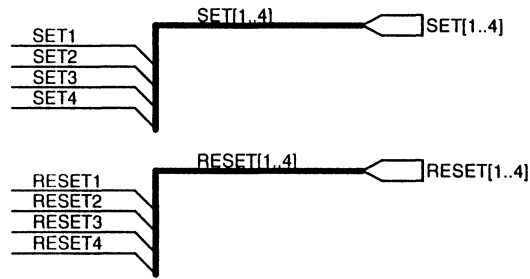
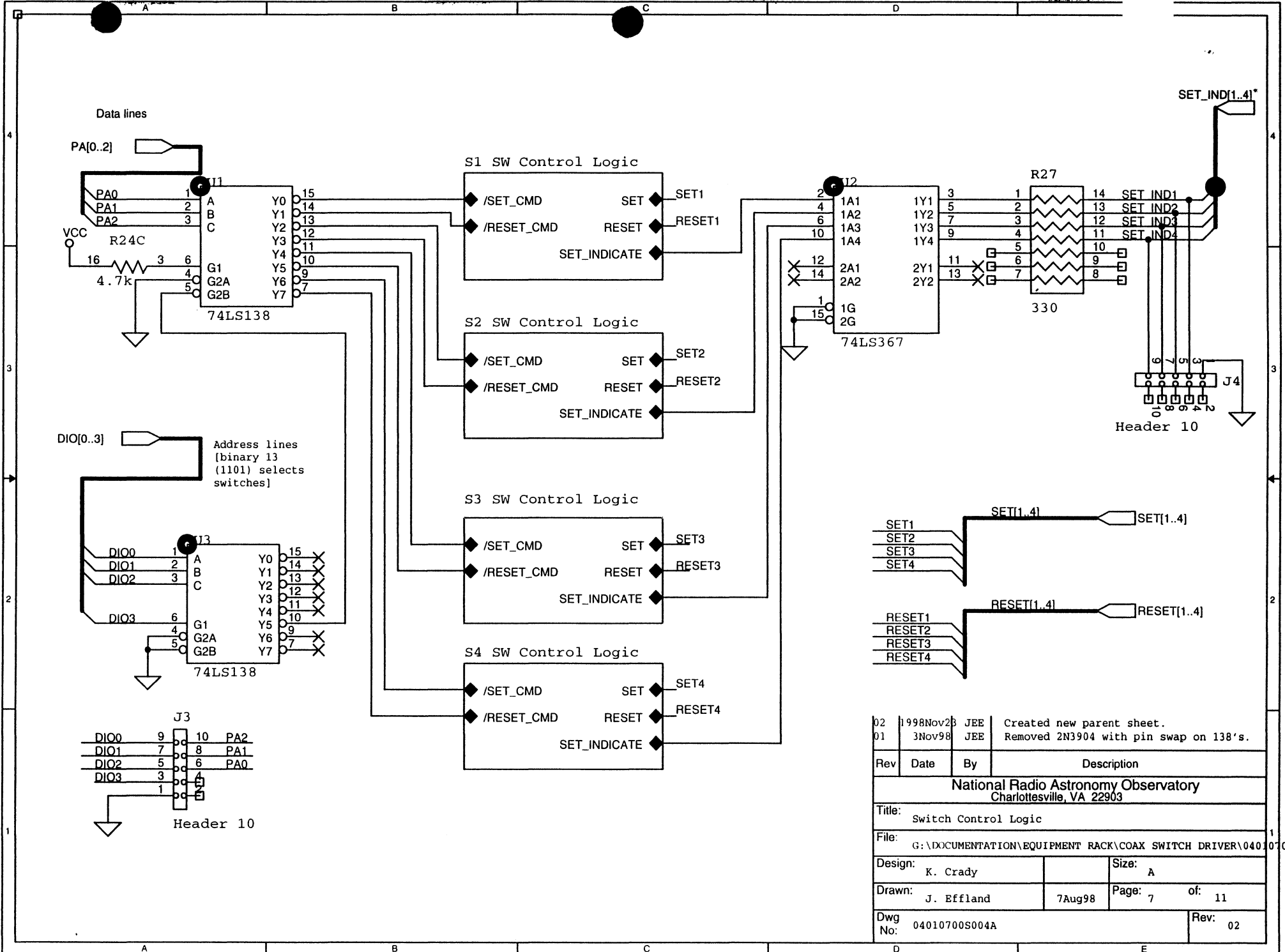
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<b>National Radio Astronomy Observatory</b> Charlottesville, VA 22903			
Title: Power Supply and Noise Diode Source			
File: G:\DOCUMENTATION\EQUIPMENT\PACK\COAX SWITCH DRIVER\040 07008004			
Design:	A. R. Kerr	13Jan84	Size: B
Drawn:	JEB	13Nov98	Page: 2 of 11
Dwg No:	[Doc]		Rev: (RevCode)

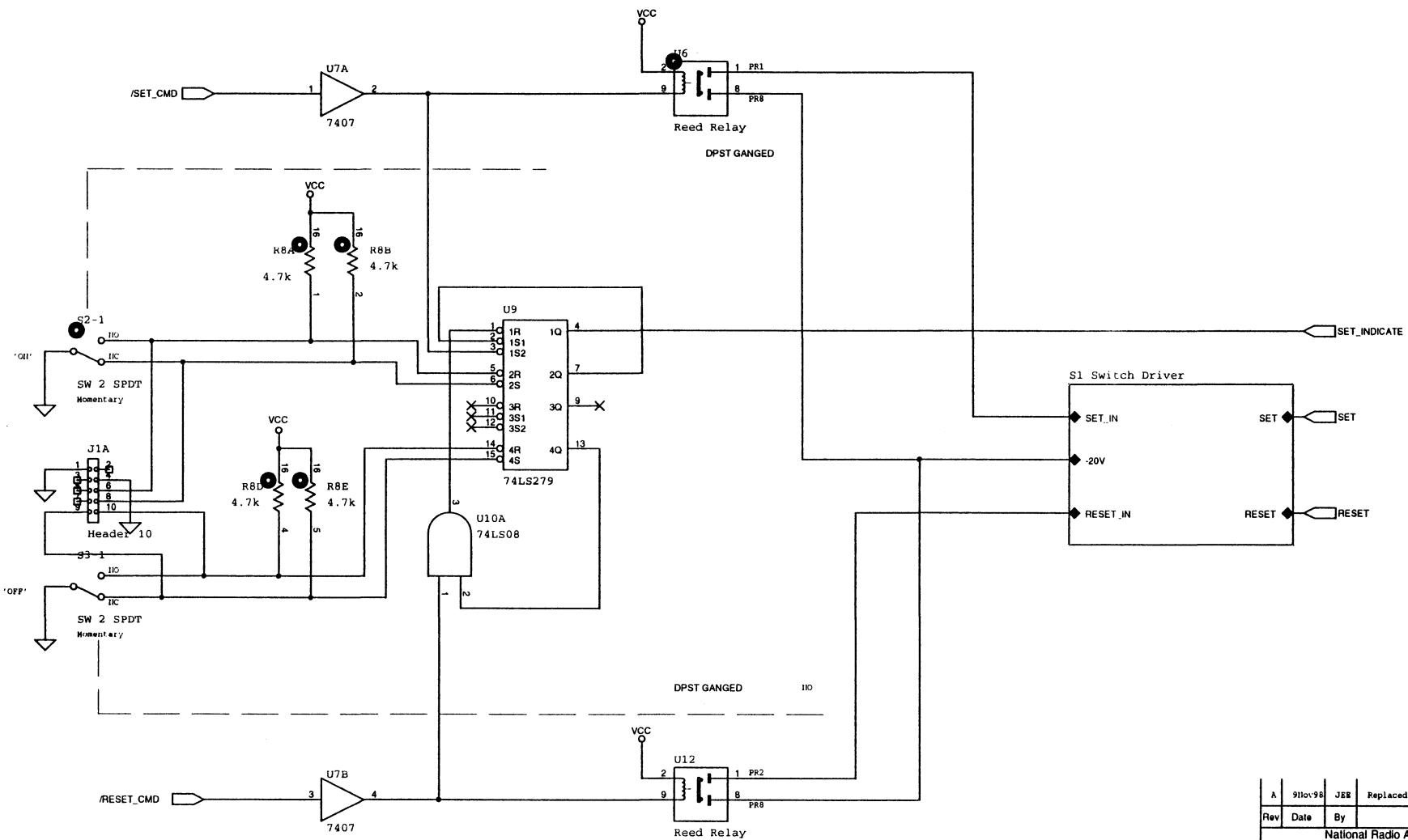
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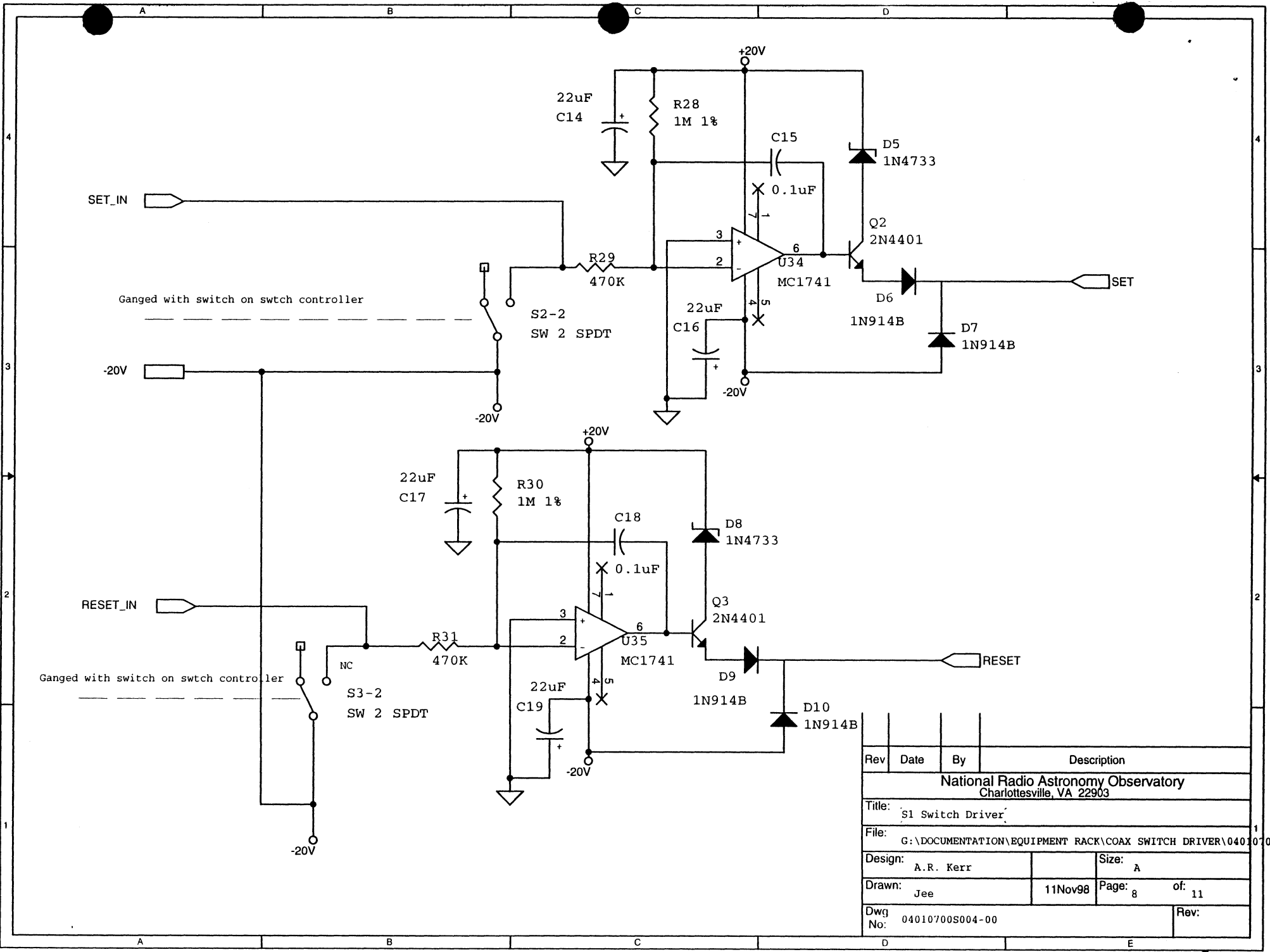
02	1998Nov23	JEE	Created new parent sheet.
01	3Nov98	JEE	Removed 2N3904 with pin swap on 138's.
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National Radio Astronomy Observatory Charlottesville, VA 22903			
Title: Switch Control Logic			
File: G:\DOCUMENTATION\EQUIPMENT RACK\COAX SWITCH DRIVER\04010700S			
Design:	K. Crady	Size:	A
Drawn:	J. Effland	7Aug98	Page: 7 of: 11
Dwg No:	04010700S004A	Rev:	02

(14)



Rev	Date	By	Description
A	9/10/98	JER	Replaced LS00's with LS279
National Radio Astronomy Observatory Charlottesville, VA 22903			
Title: S1 SW Control Logic			
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Design:	K. Crady		Size: B
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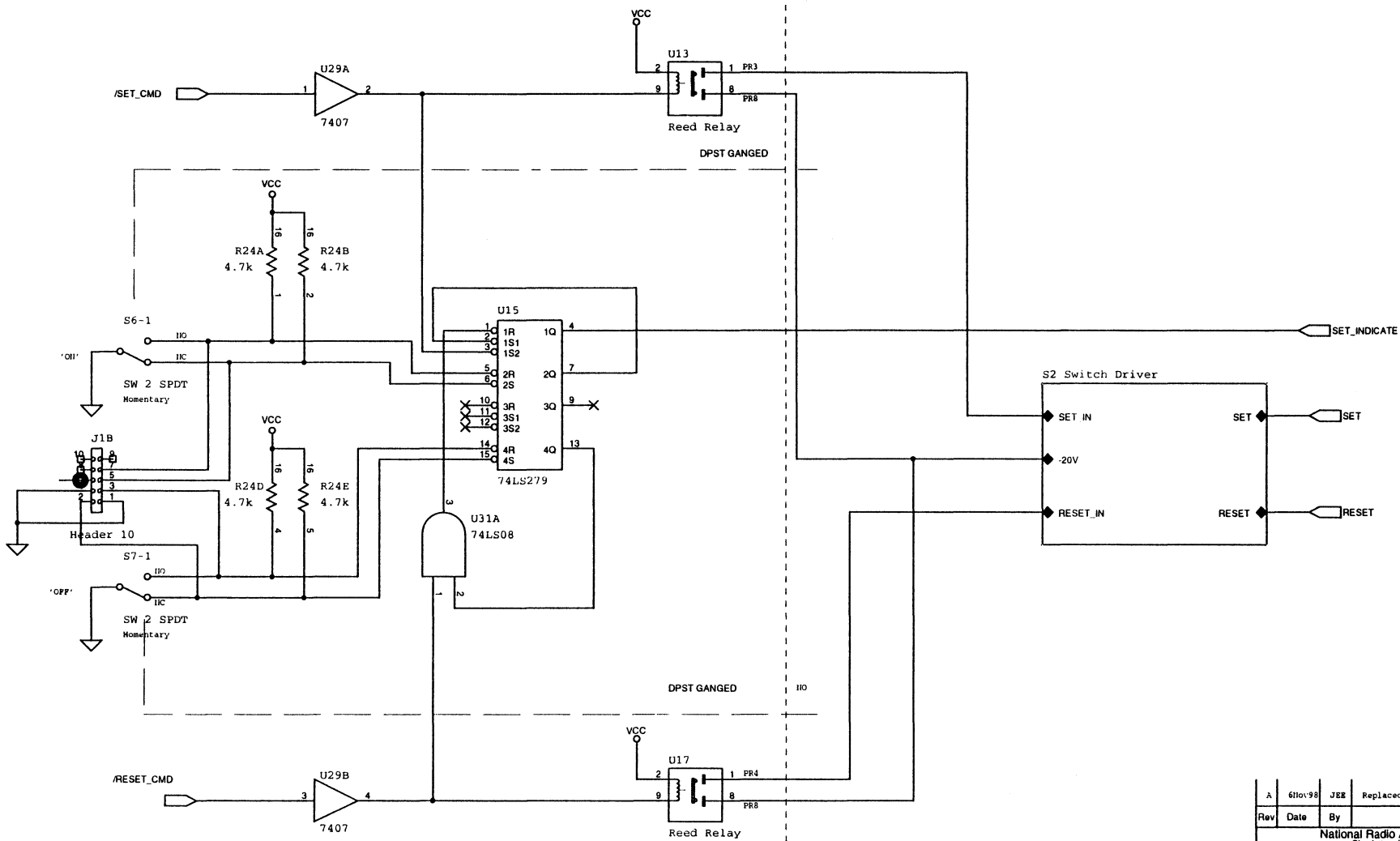
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Design:	A. R. Kerr	Size:	A
Drawn:	Jee	11Nov98	Page: 8 of: 11
Dwg No:	04010700S004-00		Rev:

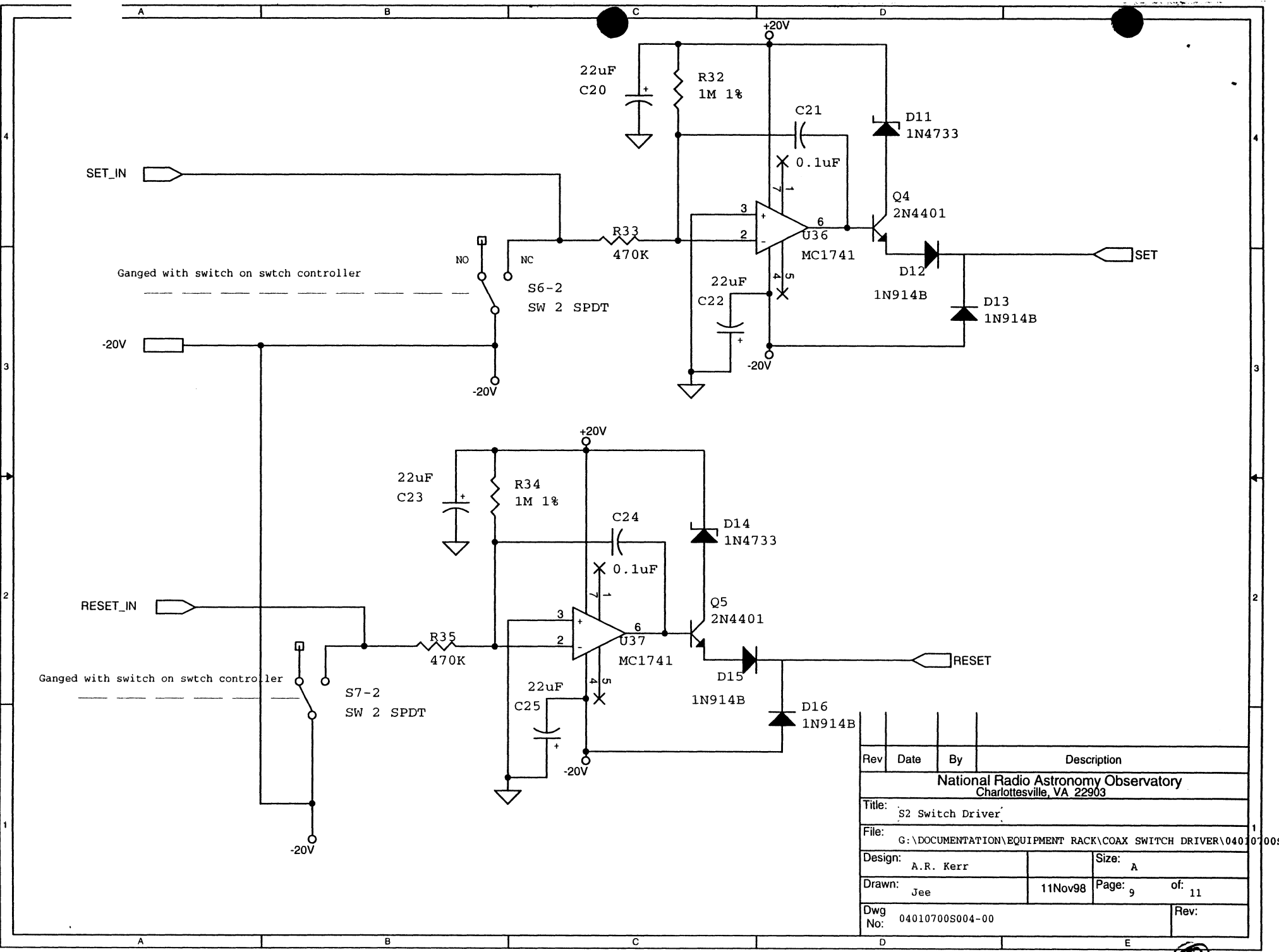
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Design:	K. Crady		Size: B
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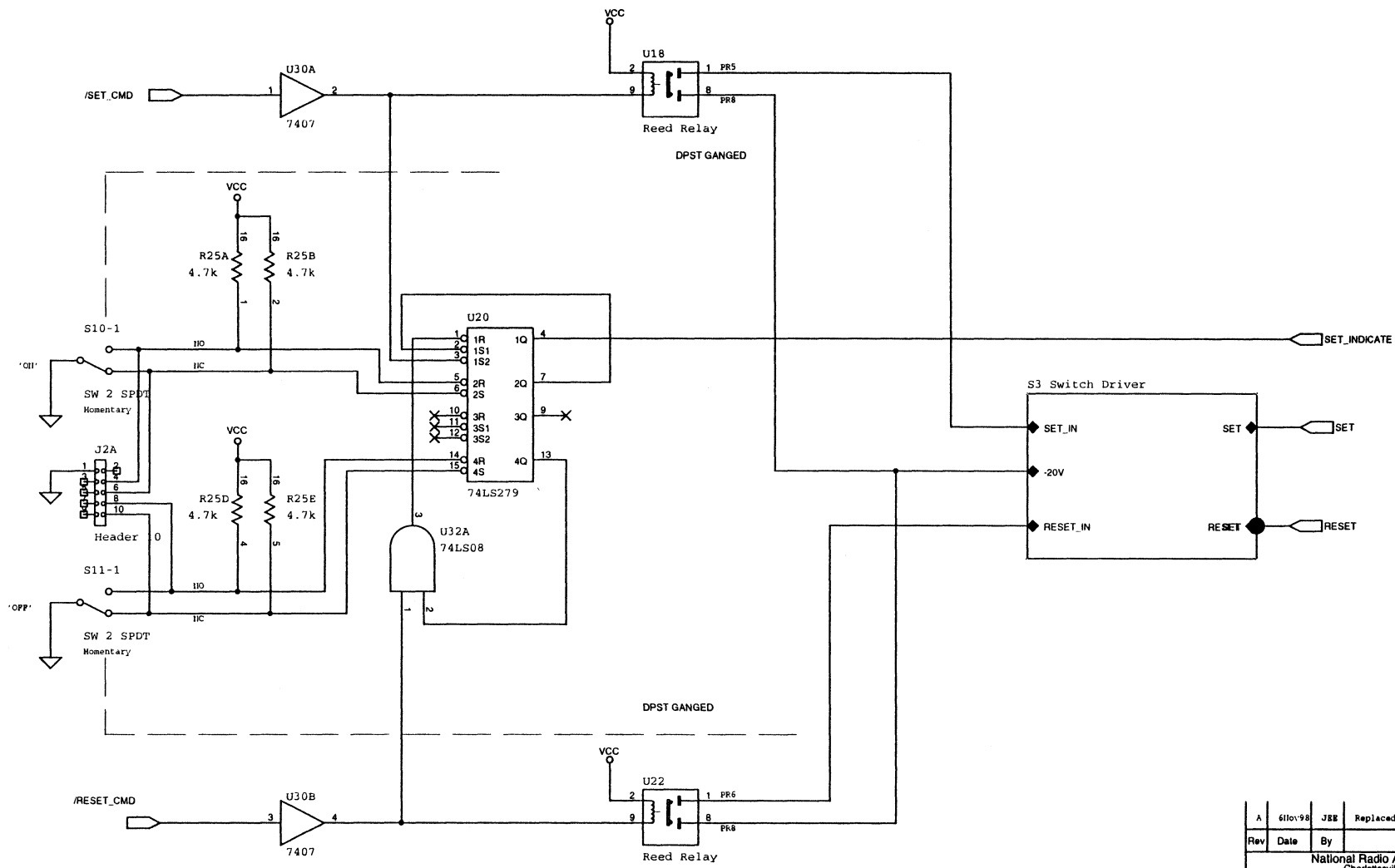
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Drawn:	Jee	11Nov98	Page: 9 of 11
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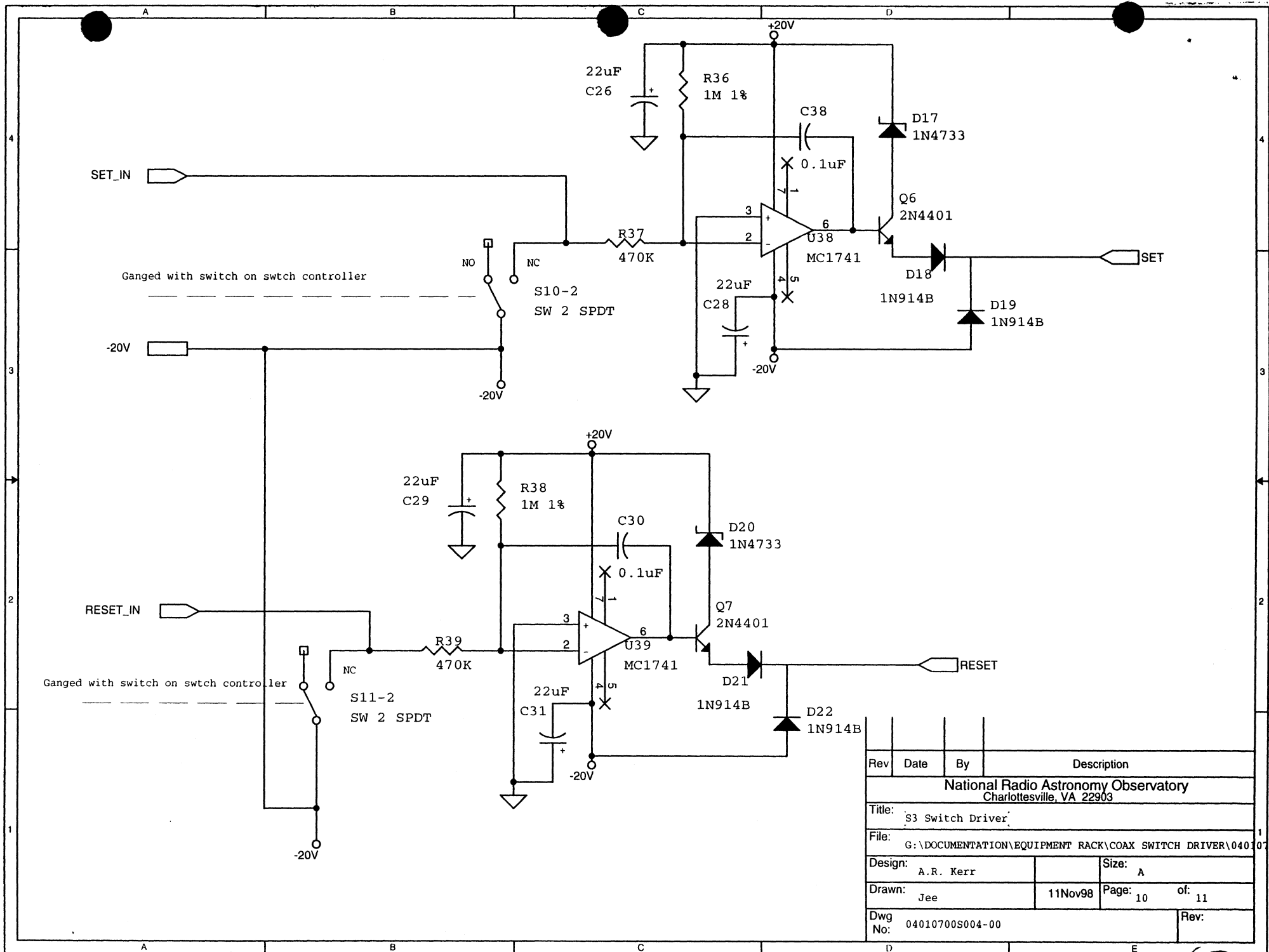
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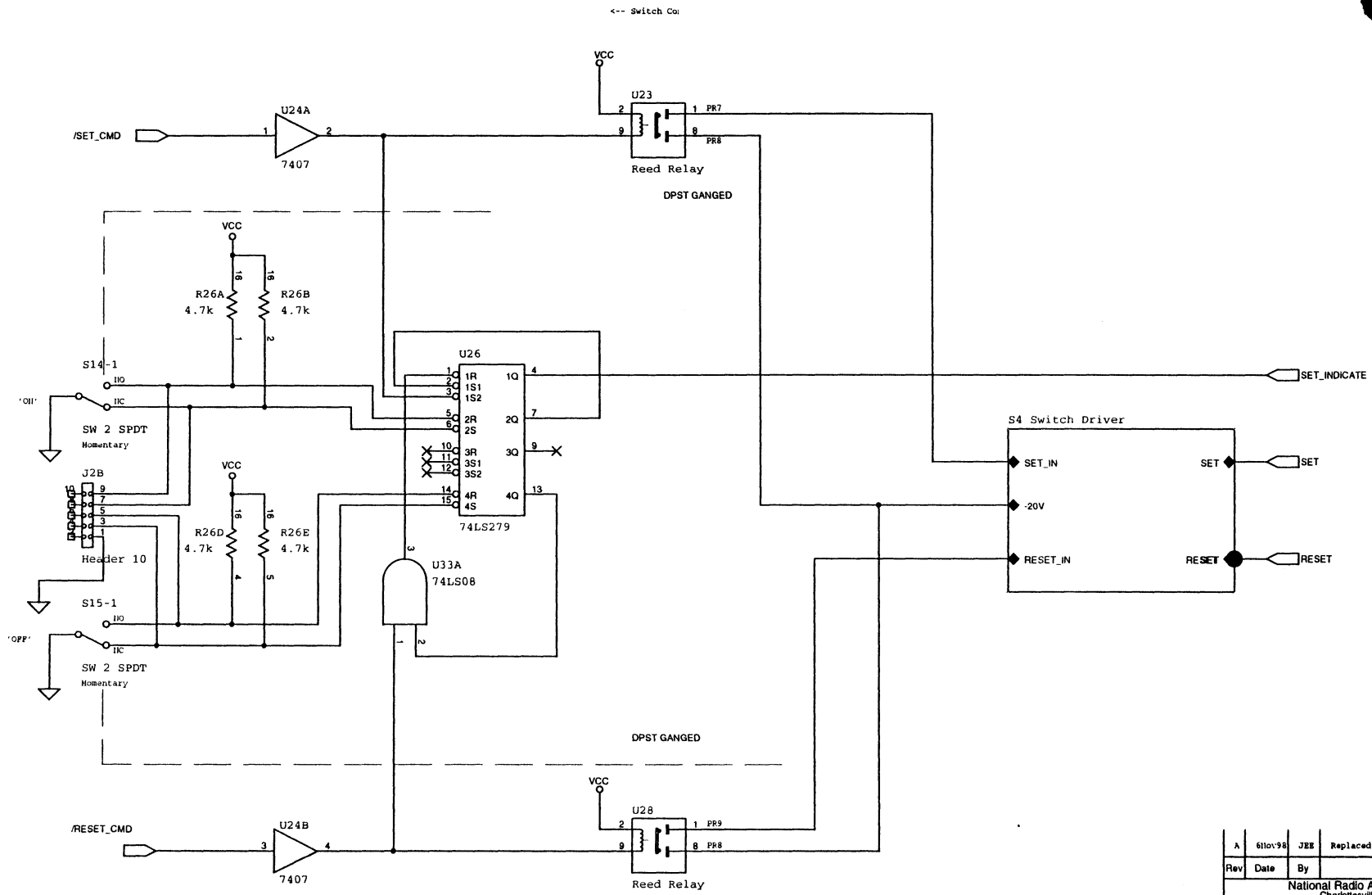
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National Radio Astronomy Observatory Charlottesville, VA 22903			
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Design:	K. Crady		Size: B
Drawn:	K. Crady		Page: 5 of 11
Dwg No:	04010700S004-00		Rev: A

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Rev	Date	By	Description
National Radio Astronomy Observatory Charlottesville, VA 22903			
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Design:	A. R. Kerr	Size:	A
Drawn:	Jee	11Nov98	Page: 10 of: 11
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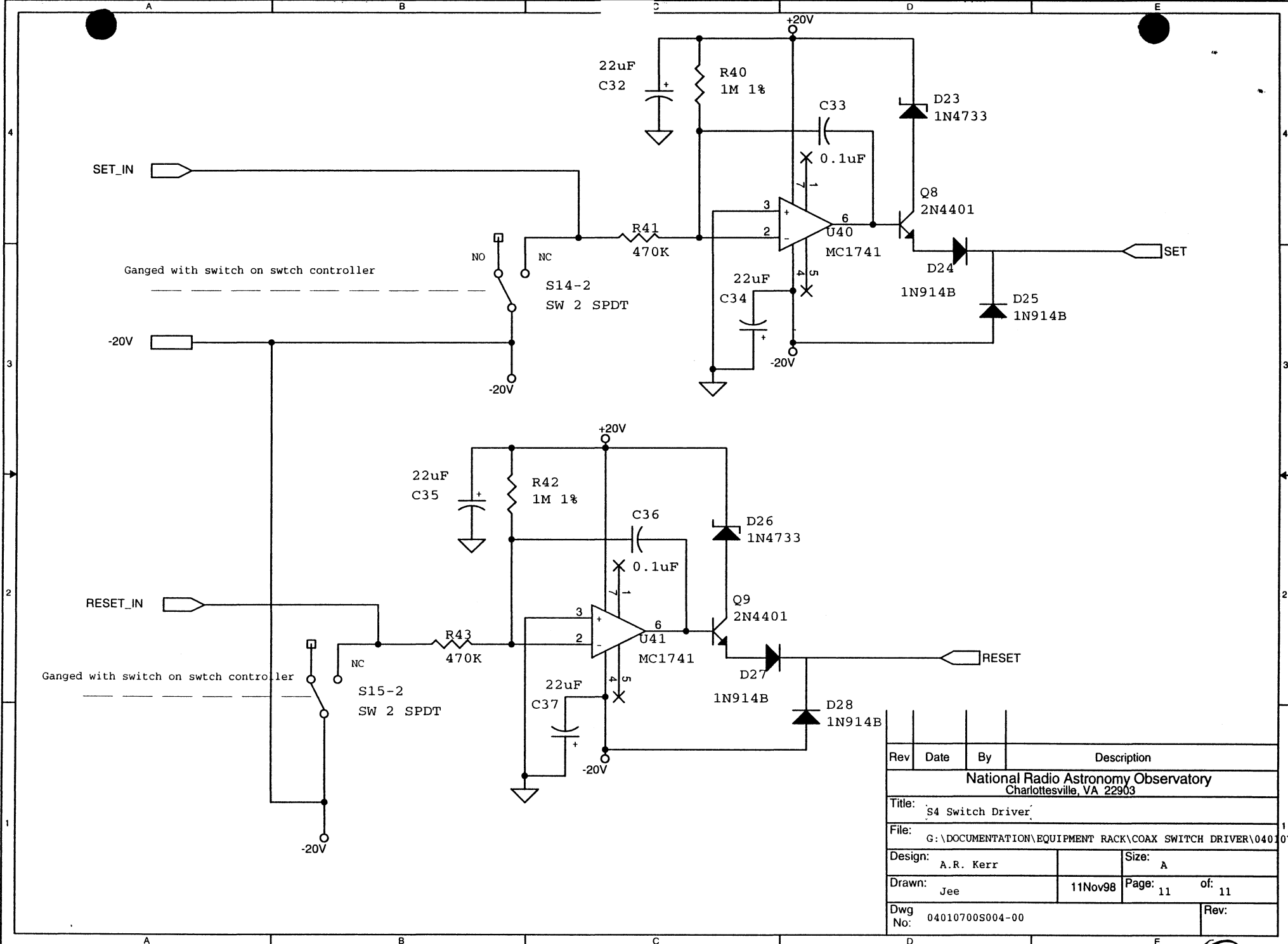
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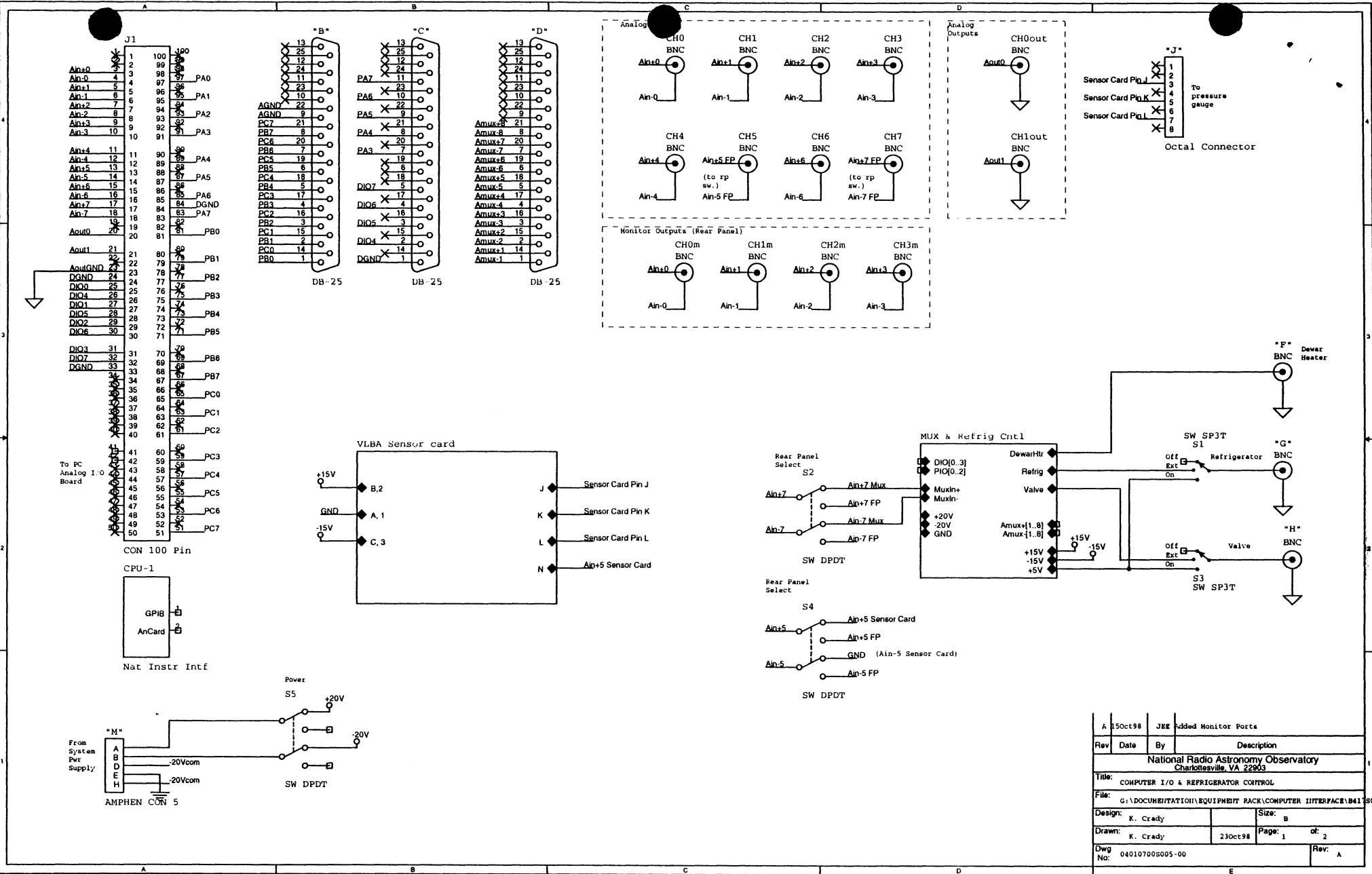
A	6/10/98	JEB	Replaced LS00's with LS279
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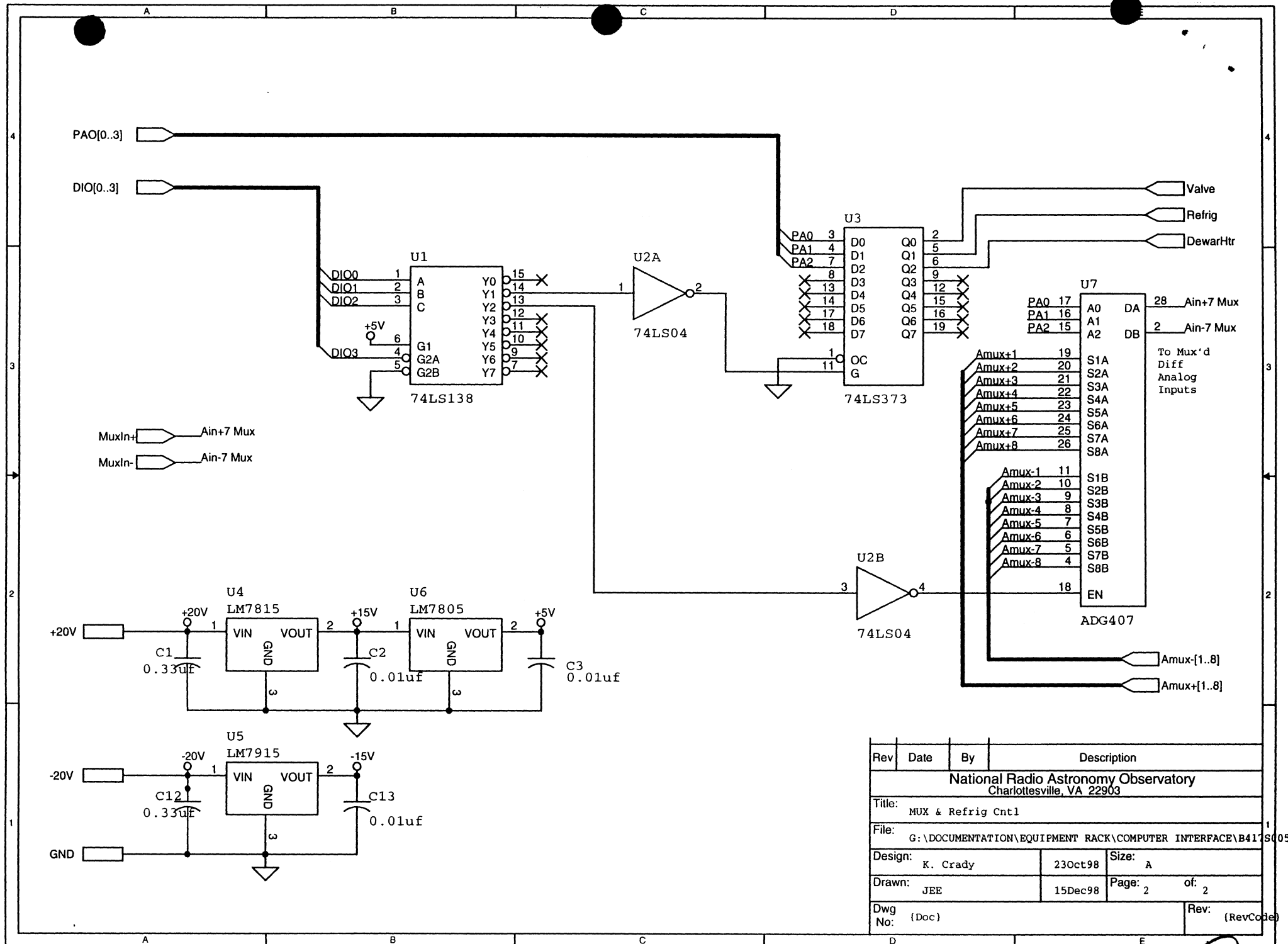


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Design:	A.R. Kerr		Size: A
Drawn:	Jee	11Nov98	Page: 11 of: 11
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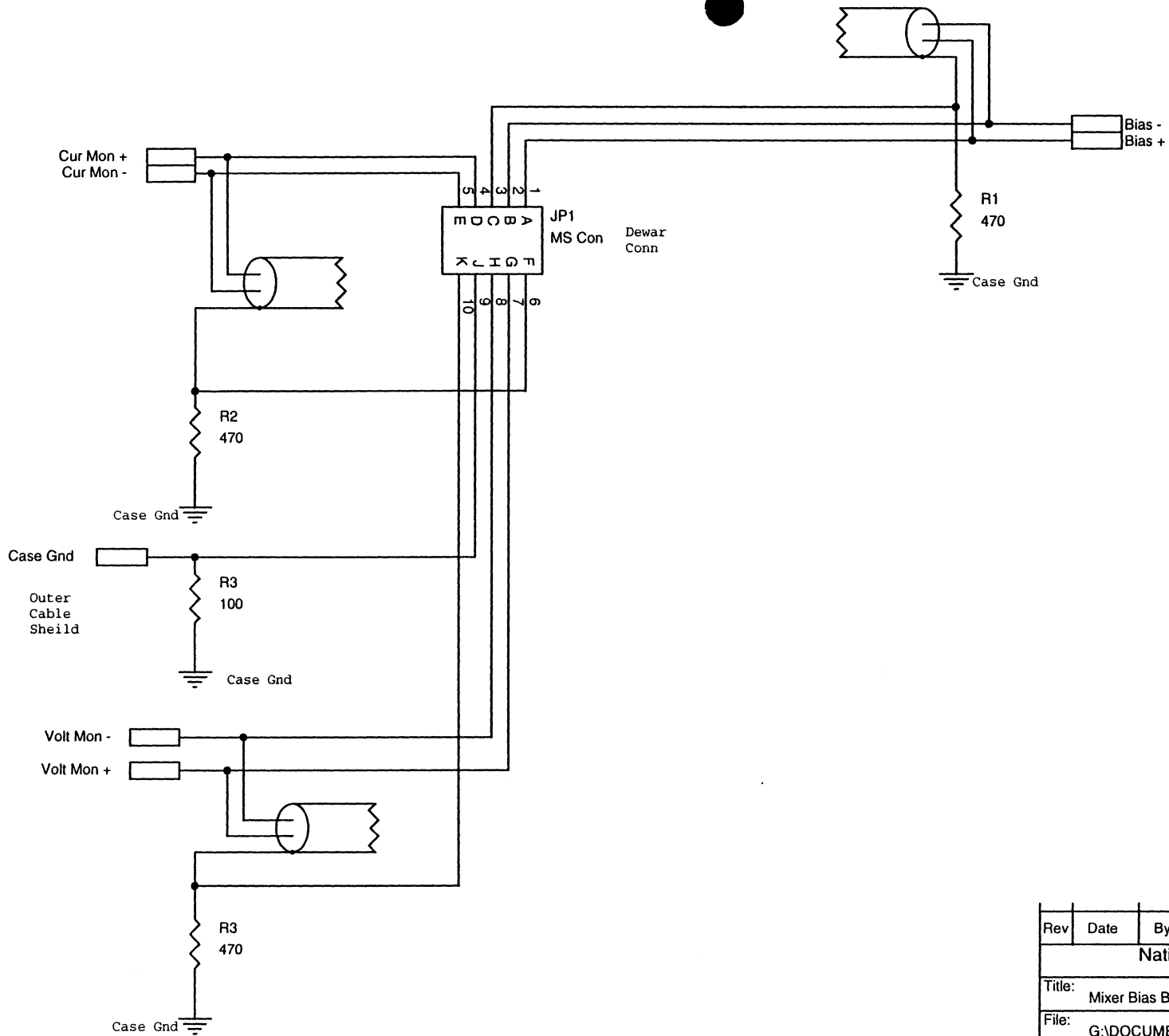
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A	15Oct98	JEE	Added Monitor Ports
National Radio Astronomy Observatory Charlottesville, VA 22903			
Title: COMPUTER I/O & REFRIGERATOR CONTROL			
File: G:\DOCUMENTATION\EQUIPMENT\PACK\COMPUTER INTERFACE\B415005.DC			
Design:	K. Crady	Size:	B
Drawn:	K. Crady	23Oct98	Page: 1 of 2
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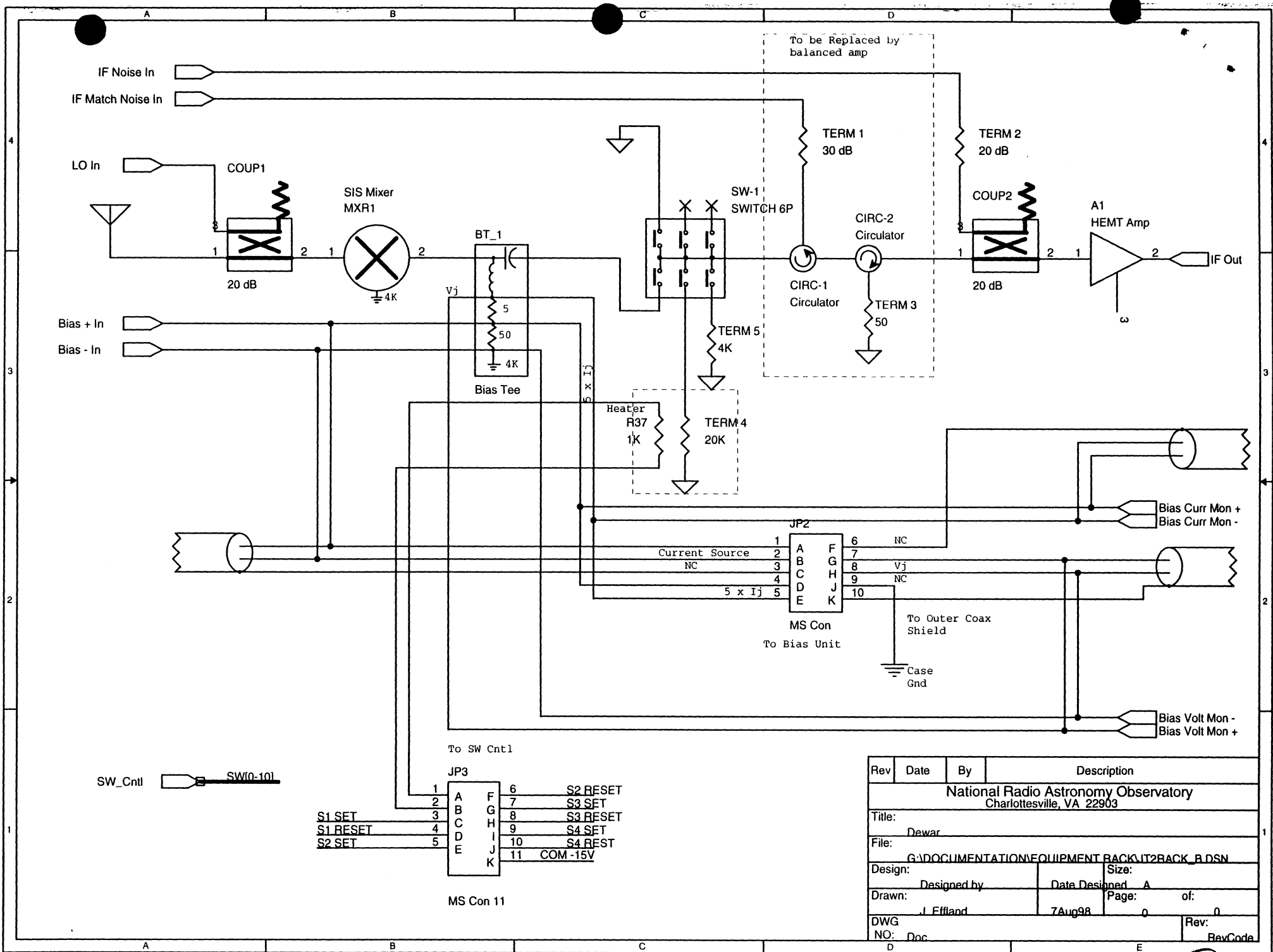
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Drawn:	JEE	15Dec98	Page: 2 of 2
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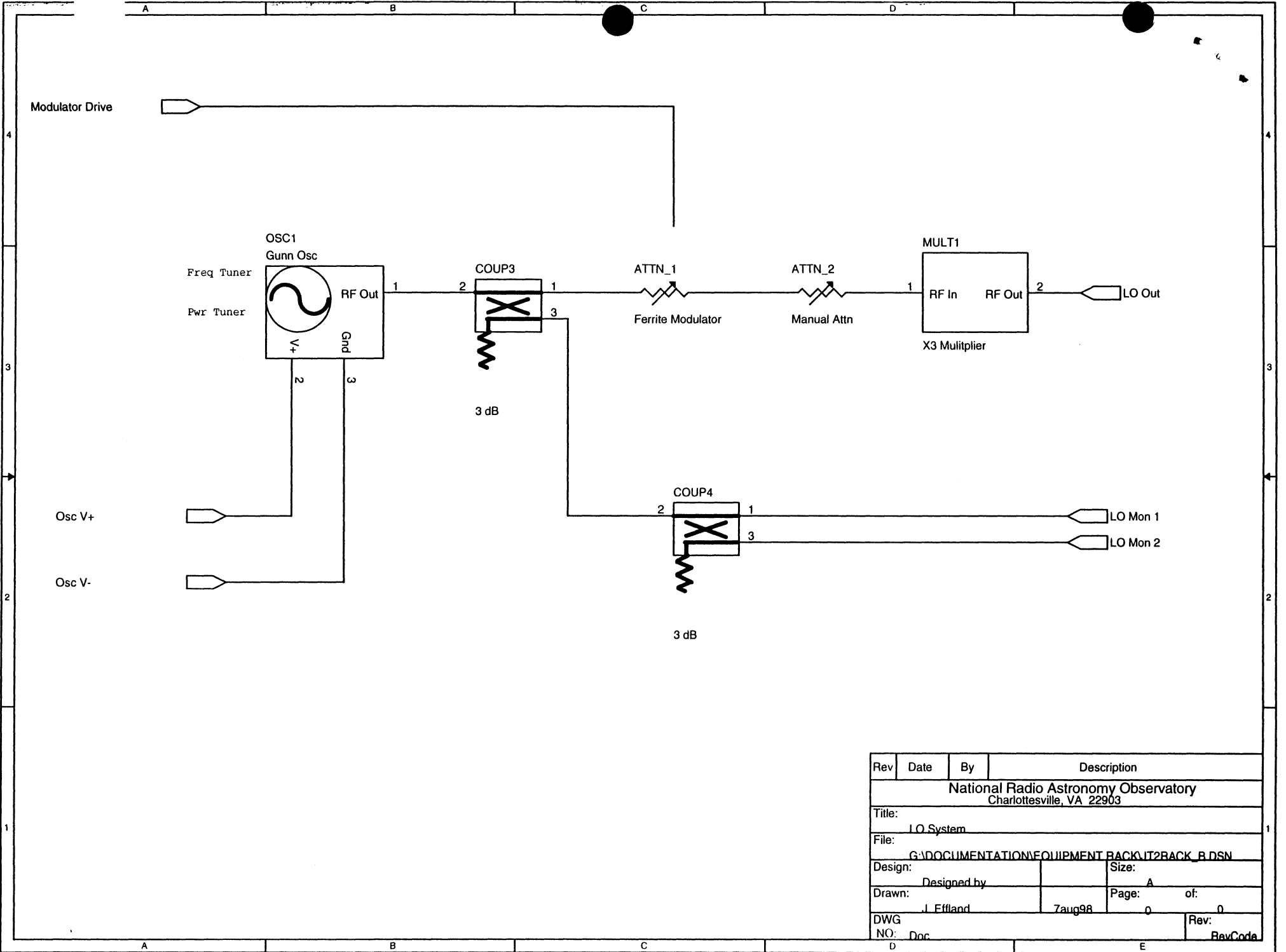
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Drawn:	J. Effland	7Aug98	Page: 0 of: 0
DWG NO:	Doc		Rev: -

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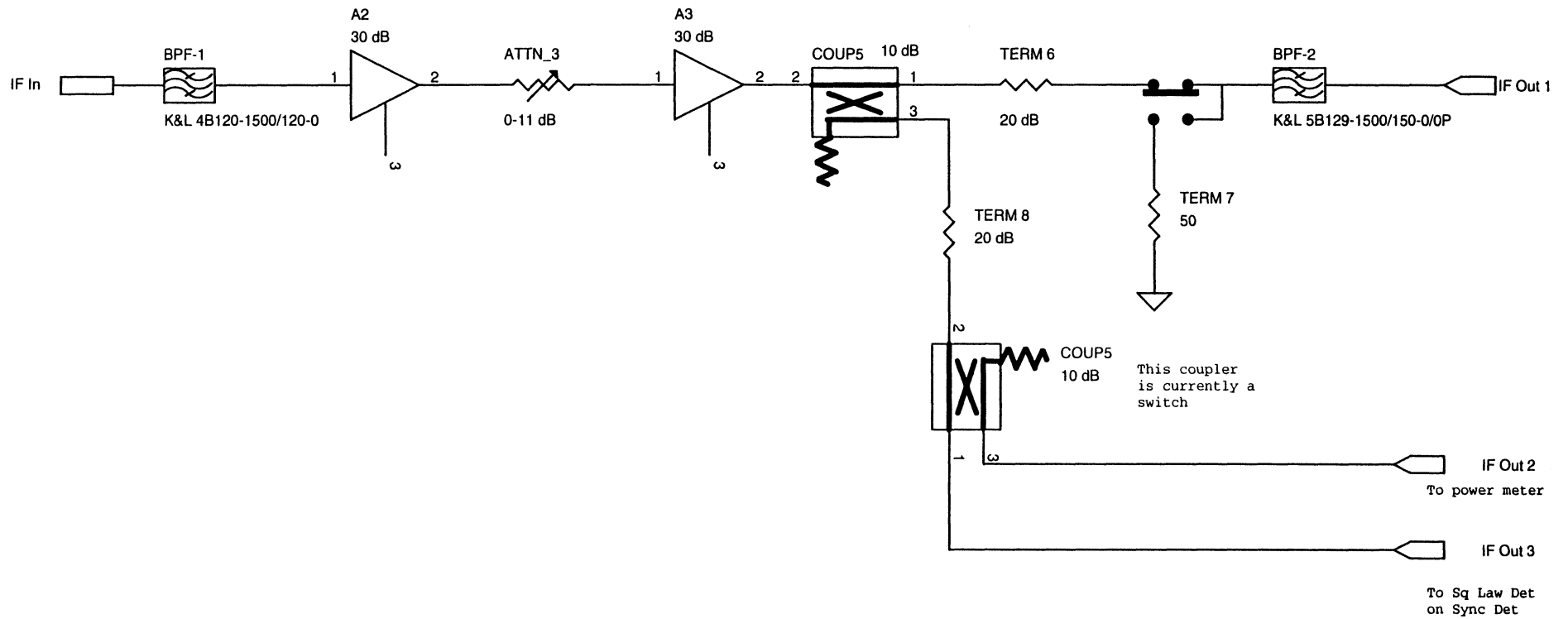


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Rev:			RevCode



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Drawn:	J. Efland	7Aug98	Page: 0 of: 0
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