UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 28, 1999

50-282/306

LICENSEE: Northern States Power Company

FACILITY: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN THE NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY AND THE NRC STAFF CONCERNING A LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT (TAC NOS: MA4228/MA4229)

The NRC staff met with representatives from the Northern States Power Company (NSP) at NRC Headquarters on January 7, 1999, concerning a recent license amendment request dated November 25, 1998, for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP). Enclosure 1 lists the meeting participants. A public meeting notice for the subject meeting was issued on December 21, 1998, and a copy of the meeting notice had been posted on the NRC's public Internet webpage.

The NSP's license amendment request proposed changes to the PINGP technical specifications (TS) that would append specific allowed-outage-time provisions pertaining to the boric acid storage tank (BAST) level channels and transfer logic channels for required testing and maintenance. NSP requested the meeting to brief the staff on the background of the subject amendment request and also to step through the relevant logic system diagrams with the staff. Enclosure 2 is a copy of the licensee's slides (simplified logic system/functional diagrams) used during the meeting. The consensus among the staff members who attended the meeting was that the meeting was very helpful in understanding the relatively complicated logic systems involved in the subject amendment request as well as the licensee's need for the amendment, and therefore preempting the need for a staff request for additional information. As a result, the staff expects to be able to accommodate the licensee's request for an expedited review schedule.

PINGP TS requires the operability of BAST interlocks associated with the transfer of safety injection suction from BAST to the refueling water storage tank (RWST). The TS also require the functional testing of the BAST transfer logic to the RWST on a monthly basis. However, the TS do not provide specific allowed-outage-time to perform the required testing. As reported in its Licensee Event Report 98-18, dated December 17, 1998, since original plant operation, NSP has performed the analog testing of BAST level channels by placing the respective channels in the tripped condition. When in this condition, a single failure of another channel could have caused a premature transfer of the safety injection pump suctions from the BAST to RWST which would bypass the injection of highly borated water required to mitigate a main steam line break accident. This discrepancy was identified by NSP as a result of a followup to NRC Information Notice 97-81, "Deficiencies in Failure Modes and Effects Analyses for Instrumentation and Control Systems."

DFO1

Subsequent to identification of this discrepancy, NSP determined that it is possible to perform the required testing without making level or logic channels associated with the inservice BASTs isolated. However, testing the instrumentation in that manner requires the physical realignment of the standby and inservice BASTs on each unit each month. This testing configuration has several disadvantages and increases the potential for a two-unit shutdown resulting from the inability to complete the required testing when and if one of the three BASTs are found to be inoperable. Therefore, it is not considered a viable method for the long-term testing of the BAST instrumentation. Hence, the proposed TS amendment appends specific allowed-outage-time provisions for the BAST level channels and transfer logic channels for required testing and maintenance.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

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J. E. Silberg, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N. W.
Washington DC 20037

Plant Manager
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Adonis A. Neblett
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
455 Minnesota Street
Suite 900
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2127

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
1719 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089-9642

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Mr. Stephen Bloom, Administrator
Goodhue County Courthouse
Box 408
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066-0408

Kris Sanda, Commissioner
Department of Public Service
121 Seventh Place East
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2145

Site Licensing
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089

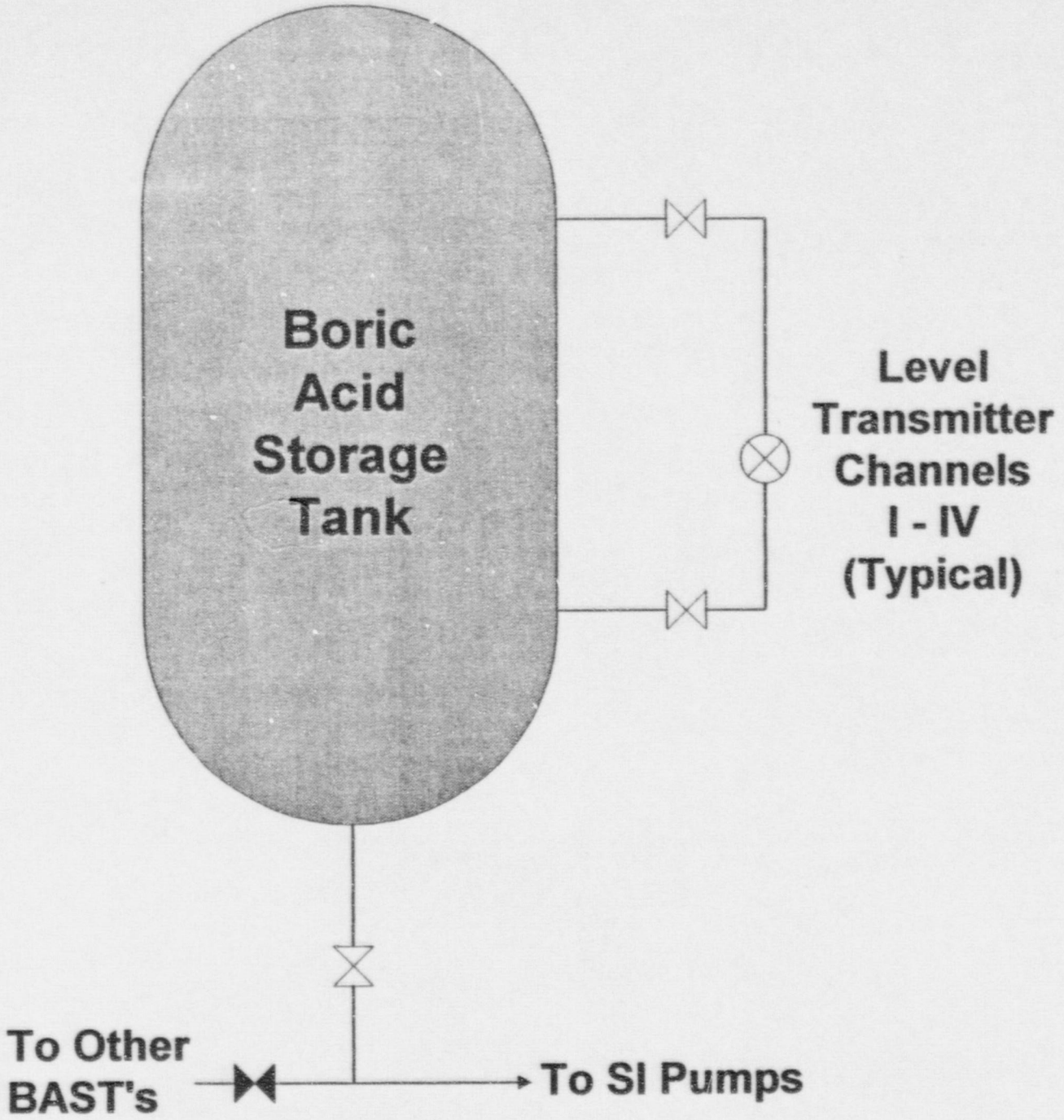
Tribal Council
Prairie Island Indian Community
ATTN: Environmental Department
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Nuclear Energy Engineering
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

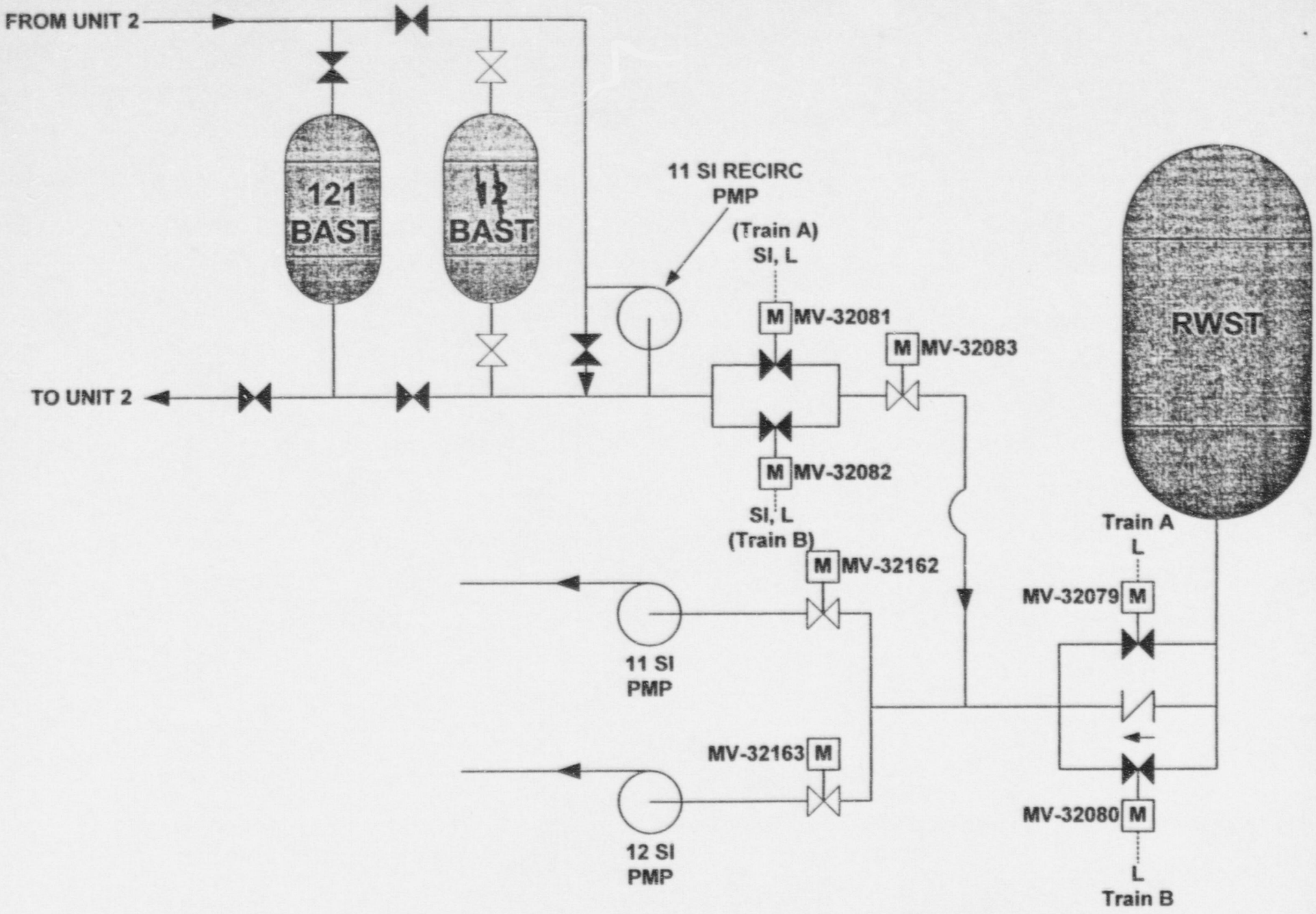
LIST OF MEETING ATTENDEES

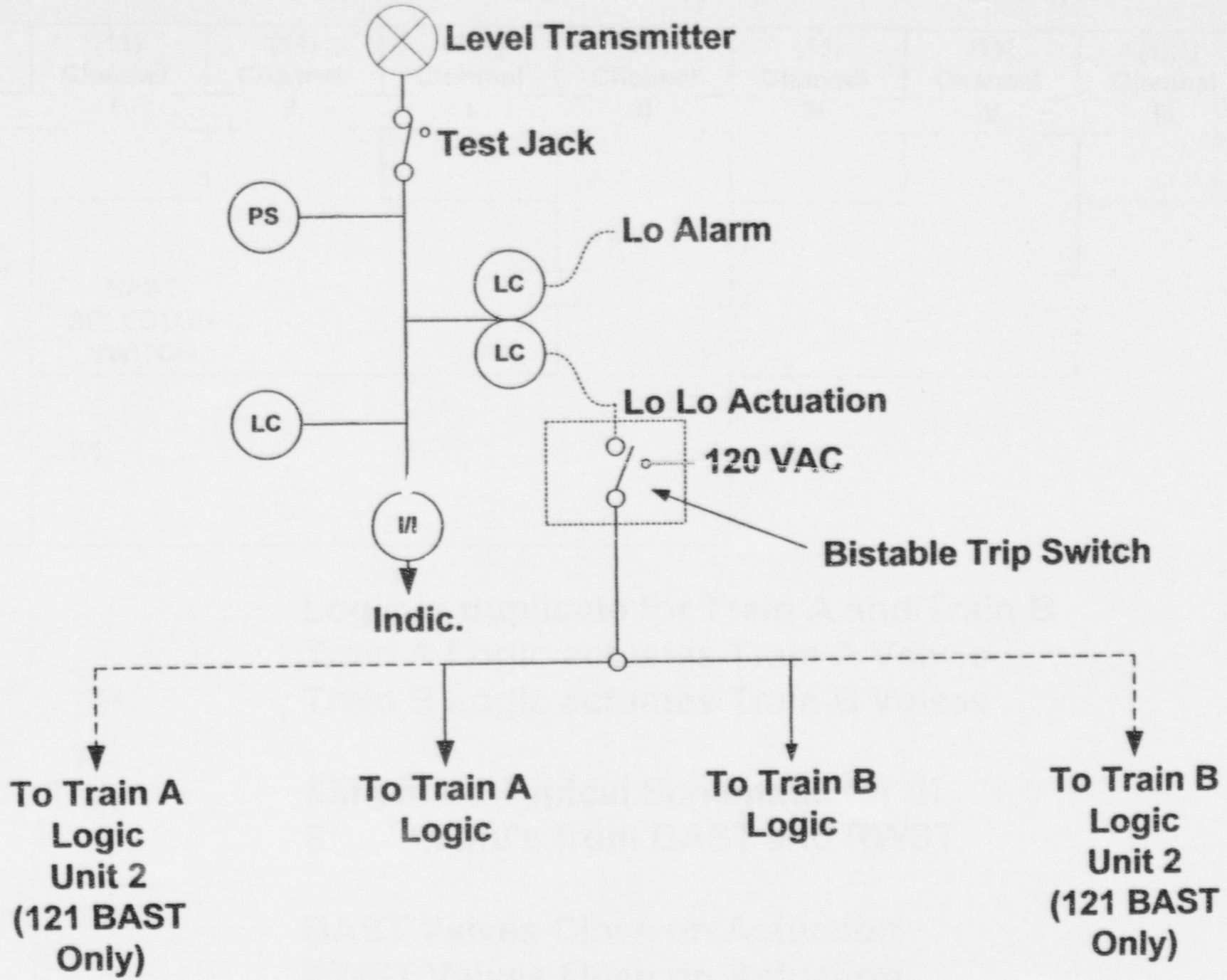
NAME	AFFILIATION
T. J. Kim	NRC/NRR/DRPW/PD31, Project Manager - Prairie Island
B. Marcus	NRC/NRR/DRCH/HICB, Technical Reviewer
M. Weston	NRC/NRR/ADP/TSB, Technical Reviewer
E. Eckholt	Northern States Power
C. Mundt	Northern States Power

ENCLOSURE 1


Boric
Acid
Storage
Tank
Level
Transmitter
Channels
I - IV
(Typical)
To Other
BAST's
To SI Pumps

ENCLOSURE 2


FROM UNIT 2
TO UNIT 2
121 BAST
12 BAST
11 SI RECIRC PMP
(Train A)
SI, L
M MV-32081
M MV-32083
M MV-32082
SI, L
(Train B)
M MV-32162
11 SI PMP
MV-32163 M
12 SI PMP
RWST
Train A
L
MV-32079 M
MV-32080 M
L
Train B


Level Transmitter
Test Jack
PS
Lo Alarm
LC
LC
LC
Lo Lo Actuation
120 VAC
I/I
Bistable Trip Switch
Indic.
To Train A Logic Unit 2 (121 BAST Only)
To Train A Logic
To Train B Logic
To Train B Logic Unit 2 (121 BAST Only)