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# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



April 15, 2011

## **FAXOGRAM: Water Order Change**

To: Chief, Power Supply and Billing Division, WAPA, Watertown, South Dakota  
Attention: F-6001  
Chief, Power Dispatching Branch, WAPA, Loveland, Colorado  
Attention: J-4120  
Facilities Manager, Hardin, Montana  
Attention: MT-300: Tom Tauscher  
Project Manager, Mills, Wyoming  
Attention: WY-4000, WY-4100, WY-6400  
Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming  
Attention: Valerie Newman

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 11-30**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS**

Elevation: 3622.80 Storage: 850,503 acre-feet; River Release: 4,750 cfs; Inflow: 4,815 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Snowpack in the Bighorn River Basin is currently about 119% average. The forecast prepared on April 15, projects the April-July inflow to be 145% of average. With releases out of Boysen and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs combined with other tributary flows, inflow into Bighorn Lake has increased to over 4,800 cfs. To control the rate of fill of storage in Bighorn Lake, the following operation changes are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 0800 hour on Saturday, April 16, 2011:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 5,430 cfs ( $\approx$  3,600 MW-Hrs/day using 36.2 cfs/mw).*

**At 0800 hour on Monday, April 18, 2011:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 6,180 cfs ( $\approx$  4,100 MW-Hrs/day using 36.2 cfs/mw).*

### **AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 800 hour on Saturday, April 16, 2011:**

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.*

*Increase river release to 5,500 cfs (gage height = 62.01 with -0.12 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 5,500 cfs.*

**At 0800 hour on Monday, April 18, 2011:**

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.*

*Increase river release to 6,250 cfs (gage height = 62.38 with -0.12 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 6,250 cfs.*

/S/ Tim H. Felchle