



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



May 27, 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. 11-45**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS (May 27, 2011: 08:00am)**

Elevation: 3625.96 Storage: 876,013 acre-feet; River Release: 7,000 cfs; Inflow: 15,260 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Precipitation has diminished and streamflows continue to slowly decline but continue to remain unusually high for this time of year. Inflows into Bighorn Lake continue to decline but remain near 15,000 cfs. To control the reservoir storage and continue preparing for the anticipated snowmelt, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 1200 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

*Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,930 cfs ( $\approx$  3,770 MW-Hrs/day using 31.4 cfs/mw).*

**At 1600 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 5,750 cfs ( $\approx$  4,395 MW-Hrs/day using 31.4 cfs/mw).*

**At 2000 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

*Maintain average daily turbine release at 5,750 cfs ( $\approx$  4,395 MW-Hrs/day using 31.4 cfs/mw).*

### **YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:**

**At 1200 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

*Decrease release through river outlet gates to 0 cfs and initiate and increase average daily release through the spillway gates to 3,000 cfs.*

**At 1600 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

*Increase average daily release through the spillway gates to 3,180 cfs.*

**At 2000 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

*Increase average daily release through the spillway gates to 4,180 cfs.*

**AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 1200 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

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

*Increase river release to 8,000 cfs (gage height = 63.14 with -0.12 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 8,000 cfs.*

**At 1600 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

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

*Increase river release to 9,000 cfs (gage height = 63.55 with -0.12 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 9,000 cfs.*

**At 2000 hour on Friday, May 27, 2011:**

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

*Increase river release to 10,000 cfs (gage height = 63.88 with -0.12 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 10,000 cfs.*

**SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:**

**Maintain the level of the Afterbay at or above elevation 3185.5 until further notice.**

/S/ Tim H. Felchle