



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



August 19, 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. 11-85**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS (August 19, 2011; 2:00 p.m.)

Elevation: 3646.21 Storage: 1,105,663 acre-feet; River Release: 5,500 cfs; Inflow: 3,000 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The 12-day outage for sluice gate maintenance scheduled for August 22-September 2, 2011 has been cancelled, due to the Afterbay Gate Refurbishment Contract scheduled to begin in early September. As inflows into Bighorn Lake continue to decrease, releases to the Bighorn River will also be decreased to slow the evacuation rate of flood storage in Bighorn Lake. Recent streamflow measurements also indicate actual river flows are lower than anticipated. In response, the following operation changes are required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant, and Afterbay applying a new shift of -0.42 to the river gage height and a -0.63 canal gage height.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Friday, August 19, 2011:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 5,755 cfs ($\approx 4,700$ MW-Hrs/day using 29.4 cfs/mw).

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 22, 2011:

Decrease average daily turbine release to 5,355 cfs ($\approx 4,370$ MW-Hrs/day using 29.4 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Friday, August 19, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 425 cfs (gage height = 74.60 with -0.63 shift).

Maintain river release at 5,400 cfs (gage height = 62.27 with -0.42 shift).

Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 5,825 cfs.

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 22, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 425 cfs (gage height = 74.60 with -0.63 shift).

Decrease river release to 5,000 cfs (gage height = 62.05 with -0.42 shift).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 5,425 cfs.

SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:

Maintain the level of the Afterbay at or above elevation 3184.5 until further notice. It is also important to maintain the river stage within ± 0.06 feet of the river stage set point value.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle