



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



February 19, 2009

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: Jim Staebler

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 09-15**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3628.38; Storage: 944,234 acre-feet; River Release: 2,450 cfs; Inflow: 1,990 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Maintenance on the actuator of sluice gate #3 is scheduled for March 23-26. During the maintenance outage, the level of the Afterbay must be maintained no lower than elevation 3182. In response, the following operation is required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant.

NOTE: This is the time period when fish are more susceptible to high levels of nitrogen gas super-saturation. To provide a more desirable mixing flow of approximately 75% through the spillway gates and 25% through the sluice gates to maintain the total gas super-saturation levels at safe limits, the minimum Afterbay elevation should be maintained at or above elevation 3183 whenever possible. This is only a soft limit and may be deviated from during special or emergency operations required to meet energy demands.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

Beginning 0800 hour on Monday, February 23 through 1700 hour on Thursday, February 26, 2009:
Maintain average daily turbine release at $\approx 2,380$ cfs ($\approx 1,582$ MW-Hrs/day using 36.1 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

Beginning 0800 hour on Monday, February 23 through 1700 hour on Thursday, February 26, 2009:
*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs (gage height = 69.34 with -0.84 shift).
Maintain river release at 2,450 cfs (decrease gage height to 60.01 & apply new shift of -0.05).
Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 2,450 cfs.*

Special Note: During the maintenance outage scheduled above, the level of the Afterbay must be maintained no lower than elevation 3182.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle