



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



April 6, 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. 09-17**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3627.64; Storage: 937,440 acre-feet; River Release: 2,450 cfs; Inflow: 2,400 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The annual inspection of the spillway tunnel on Yellowtail Dam is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2009. During this time, **the maximum tailwater elevation must be maintained at or below elevation 3183 during 0800-1400 hour** to allow boats to safely enter the spillway stilling basin for inspection of spillway tunnel.

In addition, a maintenance outage is scheduled on the Afterbay Dam sluice gates for April 20-30. During this time, the level of the Afterbay must be maintained no lower than elevation 3182.50 to sufficiently release the required flow to the Bighorn River through the spillway.

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.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

During 0800 hour through 1400 hour on Thursday, April 9, 2009:

Maintain tailwater elevation at or below elevation 3183 to allow boats to safely enter the spillway stilling basin for inspection of the spillway tunnel.

Special Note: This special operation shall not interfere with or disrupt previously scheduled releases to the Bighorn River.

During 0800 hour on Monday, April 20, 2009 through 1400 hour on Thursday, April 30, 2009:

Special Note: The level of the Afterbay must be maintained no lower than elevation 3182.50 to allow for maintenance of the sluice gates and ensure releasing the scheduled flow over the Afterbay spillway overflow weir to the river.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle