



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



June 18, 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. 09-39**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3640.82; Storage: 1,080,482 acre-feet; River Release: 9,500 cfs; Inflow: 15,300 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Afternoon thunderstorm activities, snowmelt runoff, and high releases out of Boysen and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs continue to maintain inflows to Bighorn Lake over 15,000 cfs. To slow the rate of fill of storage in Bighorn Lake, releases to the Bighorn River will be increased to near 10,000 cfs and maintained at rates necessary to maintain daily generation at Yellowtail powerplant near 250 MW-Hrs/day and the Afterbay level near elevation 3190.

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:

At 1300 hour on Thursday, June 18, 2009:

Maintain average daily turbine release at $\approx 7,025$ cfs ($\approx 6,000$ MW-Hrs/day using 28.1 cfs/mw).

YELLOWTAIL EVACUATION OUTLET RELEASE:

At 1300 hour on Thursday, June 18, 2009:

Maintain release ≈ 0 cfs through the evacuation outlet gate.

YELLOWTAIL SPILLWAY GATE RELEASE:

At 1300 hour on Thursday, June 18, 2009:

Increase release to $\approx 3,255$ cfs through the spillway gates.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1300 hour on Thursday, June 18, 2009:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 350 cfs (gage height = 73.67 with -0.22 shift).

Increase river release to $\approx 10,000$ cfs (gage height = 63.82 with new shift of -0.06).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to near 10,350 cfs

NOTE: Vary river release at amounts required to maintain Afterbay level near elevation 3190 while maintaining generation at 250 MW-Hrs/day.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle