



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 11, 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. 09-55**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3643.69; Storage: 1,118,963 acre-feet; River Release: 3,050 cfs; Inflow: 3,980 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

An inspection and maintenance of the spillway gates on the Yellowtail Afterbay Dam has been scheduled for September 1, 2009. During this time, **the level of the Afterbay must be maintained at or below elevation 3179** to allow staff to safely inspect the spillway gates. In response, the following operation will be required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant, and Afterbay Dam.

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 1300 hour during September 1, 2009:

Maintain level of the Afterbay at or below elevation 3179 to allow staff to safely inspect the spillway gates on the Afterbay Dam.

This special operation shall not interfere with or deviate from the previously scheduled releases to the Bighorn River.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle