



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

May 3, 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. 11-34**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS**

Elevation: 3613.24 Storage: 783,434 acre-feet; River Release: 6,500 cfs; Inflow: 3,485 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Snowpack in the Bighorn River Basin is 142% of average. Over the past week, inflows into Bighorn Lake have decreased considerably. To slow the evacuation rate of storage in Bighorn Lake, the following operation change is required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 4, 2011:**

*Decrease average daily turbine release to 5,930 cfs ( $\approx 4,775$  MW-Hrs/day using 29.8 cfs/mw).*

### **AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 4, 2011:**

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.*

*Decrease river release to 6,000 cfs (gage height = 62.26 with -0.12 shift).*

*Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 6,000 cfs.*

### **SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:**

**Maintain the level of the Afterbay at or above elevation 3184 until further notice.**

/S/ Tim H. Felchle