



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 11, 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. 11-35**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

Elevation: 3606.81 Storage: 746,004 acre-feet; River Release: 6,000 cfs; Inflow: 5,100 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Snowpack in the Bighorn River Basin remains over 150% of average. A strong spring storm during May 7-10 produced significant precipitation in the Bighorn River Basin, causing many streamflows to increase significantly. Inflows into Bighorn Lake have increased to 5,100 cfs and continue to steadily increase. In preparation for the anticipated spring runoff, releases out of Yellowtail Dam will be increased as follows:

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 11, 2011:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 5,930 cfs (\approx 4,590 MW-Hrs/day using 31.0 cfs/mw).

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 11, 2011:

Initiate and increase release through river outlet gates to 500 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 11, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.

Increase river release to 6,500 cfs (gage height = 62.50 with -0.12 shift).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to 6,500 cfs.

SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:

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

/S/ Tim H. Felchle