



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 18, 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. 11-38**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

Elevation: 3607.17 Storage: 748,040 acre-feet; River Release: 7,500 cfs; Inflow: 6,715 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Snowpack in the Bighorn River Basin remains well above average. To control reservoir storage and prepare for the anticipated spring snowmelt in a manner consistent with the revised operating criteria, releases out of Yellowtail Dam will be increased as follows:

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 18, 2011:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 6,280 cfs (\approx 4,800 MW-Hrs/day using 31.4 cfs/mw).

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 18, 2011:

Increase release through river outlet gates to 1,650 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 18, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.

Increase river release to 8,000 cfs (gage height = 63.14 with -0.12 shift).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to 8,000 cfs.

SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:

Maintain the level of the Afterbay at or above elevation 3185.0 until further notice.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle