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# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



May 23, 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. 11-41**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS (May 23, 2011: 5:15pm)**

Elevation: 3615.65 Storage: 798,858 acre-feet; River Release: 3,500 cfs; Inflow: 14,700 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Following the record precipitation event in southeastern Montana during May 19-22, many streamflows downstream of Yellowtail Dam are beginning to recede. To control reservoir storage and prepare for the anticipated spring snowmelt, releases from Yellowtail Dam to the Bighorn River will be increased as follows.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 1800 hour on Monday, May 23, 2011:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 3,930 cfs ( $\approx$  3,004 MW-Hrs/day using 31.4 cfs/mw).*

**At 2200 hour on Monday, May 23, 2011:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 4,430 cfs ( $\approx$  3,386 MW-Hrs/day using 31.4 cfs/mw).*

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

**At 1800 hour on Monday, May 23, 2011:**

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

*Increase river release to 4,000 cfs (gage height – 61.18 with -0.12 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 4,000 cfs.*

**At 2200 hour on Monday, May 23, 2011:**

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

*Increase river release to 4,500 cfs (gage height – 61.48 with -0.12 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 4,500 cfs.*

/S/ Tim H. Felchle