



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

July 27, 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. 11-76**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS (July 27, 2011; 4:00 p.m.)

Elevation: 3654.36 Storage: 1,234,048 acre-feet; River Release: 12,000 cfs; Inflow: 9,250 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The high elevation snowmelt is essentially over. As releases out of Boysen and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs continue to be decreased, inflows into Bighorn Lake also continue to decrease. To slow the evacuation rate of storage in the exclusive flood pool and gradually reduce high flows in the Bighorn River, the following operation change is required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 0800 hour on Thursday, July 28, 2011:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 6,935 cfs (\approx 5,900 MW-Hrs/day using 28.2 cfs/mw).

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 0800 hour on Thursday, July 28, 2011:

Decrease releases through the spillway gates to \approx 0 cfs

Increase releases through the river outlet gates to \approx 3,420 cfs.

At 1100 hour on Thursday, July 28, 2011:

Increase releases through the spillway gates to \approx 3,000 cfs

Decrease releases through the river outlet gates to \approx 420 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 0800 hour on Thursday, July 28, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 425 cfs (gage height = 75.23 with -1.26 shift).

Decrease river release to 10,000 cfs (gage height = 63.76 with 0.0 shift).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 10,425 cfs.

SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:

Maintain the level of the Afterbay at or above elevation 3185.5 until further notice. It is also extremely important to maintain the river stage within +/- 0.06 feet of the river stage set point value.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle