



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



August 8, 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. 11-80**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS (August 8, 2011; 6:00 a.m.)

Elevation: 3650.43 Storage: 1,170,142 acre-feet; River Release: 9,000 cfs; Inflow: 6,740 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The high elevation snowmelt is essentially over. Streamflows in the Bighorn River Basin continue to decrease. To slow the evacuation rate of storage from the exclusive flood pool and gradually reduce high flows in the Bighorn River, the following operation changes are required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant, and Afterbay.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 8, 2011:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 6,855 cfs (\approx 5,880 MW-Hrs/day using 28.2 cfs/mw).

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 8, 2011:

Decrease releases through the spillway gates to \approx 1,500 cfs.

Maintain releases through the river outlet gates at 0 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 8, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 425 cfs (gage height = 75.22 with -1.26 shift).

Decrease river release to 8,000 cfs (gage height = 63.02 with 0.0 shift).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 8,425 cfs.

SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:

Maintain the level of the Afterbay at or above elevation 3185 until further notice. It is also important to maintain the river stage within +/- 0.06 feet of the river stage set point value.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle