



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

August 9, 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. 11-82**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS (August 9, 2011; 2:00 p.m.)

Elevation: 3650.05 Storage: 1,164,147 acre-feet; River Release: 8,000 cfs; Inflow: 6,100 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The high elevation snowmelt is essentially over and streamflows into Bighorn Lake continue to slowly decrease. To slow the evacuation rate of flood storage and 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 Thursday, August 11, 2011:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 6,755 cfs (\approx 5,405 MW-Hrs/day using 30.0 cfs/mw).

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 15, 2011:

Decrease average daily turbine release to 6,255 cfs (\approx 5,005 MW-Hrs/day using 30.0 cfs/mw).

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Thursday, August 11, 2011:

Decrease releases through the spillway gates to 0 cfs.

Increase releases through the river outlet gates to 500 cfs.

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 15, 2011:

Maintain releases through the spillway gates at 0 cfs.

Decrease releases through the river outlet gates to 0 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Thursday, August 11, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 325 cfs (gage height = 74.52 with -1.26 shift).

Decrease river release to 7,000 cfs (gage height = 62.60 with 0.0 shift).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 7,325 cfs.

At 1600 hour on Monday, August 15, 2011:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 325 cfs (gage height = 74.52 with -1.26 shift).

Decrease river release to 6,000 cfs (gage height = 62.14 with 0.0 shift).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 6,325 cfs.

SPECIAL AFTERBAY OPERATION REQUIREMENT:

Maintain the level of the Afterbay at or above elevation 3184.5 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