



# 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 17, 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. 11-84**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS**

Elevation: 3647.25 Storage: 1,121,115 acre-feet; River Release: 6,250 cfs; Inflow: 3,808 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Recent Streamflow measurements indicate actual river and canal flows are lower than anticipated. To slow the evacuation of flood storage and reduce high flows in the Bighorn River, the following operation changes are required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant, and Afterbay applying a new shift of  $-0.37$  to the river gage height and a  $-0.63$  to the canal gage height.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 1300 hour on Wednesday, August 17, 2011:**

*Decrease average daily turbine release at 6,525 cfs ( $\approx 5,345$  MW-Hrs/day using 29.3 cfs/mw).*

**At 1600 hour on Thursday, August 18, 2011:**

*Decrease average daily turbine release to 5,855 cfs ( $\approx 4800$  MW-Hrs/day using 29.3 cfs/mw).*

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

**At 1300 hour on Wednesday, August 17, 2011:**

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 425 cfs (gage height = 74.60 with  $-0.63$  shift).*

*Decrease river release to 6,170 cfs (gage height = 62.59 with  $-0.37$  shift).*

*Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 6,595 cfs.*

**At 1600 hour on Thursday, August 18, 2011:**

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 425 cfs (gage height = 74.60 with  $-0.63$  shift).*

*Decrease river release to 5,500 cfs (gage height = 62.27 with  $-0.37$  shift).*

*Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 5,925 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  $\pm 0.06$  feet of the river stage set point value.**

/S/ Charles W. Heinje