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 26, 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. 11-87**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS (August 26, 2011; 02:00 p.m.)

Elevation: 3644.17 Storage: 1,076,224 acre-feet; River Release: 4,500 cfs; Inflow: 3,600 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Recent streamflow measurements conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey indicates actual river and canal flows are lower than anticipated. In response, the operation change scheduled in Water Release Order BHR No. 11-86 for Monday August 29 is hereby cancelled. To continue evacuating flood storage in Bighorn Lake and gradually reduce releases to the Bighorn River, the following operation changes are required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant, and Afterbay applying new shifts of -0.60 to the river gage height and a -0.75 to the canal gage height.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Friday, August 26, 2011:
Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,535 cfs (≈ 3,730 MW-Hrs/day using 29.2 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Friday, August 26, 2011:
Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 405 cfs (gage height = 74.60 with -0.75 shift).
Maintain river release at 4,200 cfs (gage height = 61.78 with -0.60 shift).
Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 4,605 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