



# 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

May 17, 2012

## **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. 12-36**

## **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS**

Elevation: 3615.40 Storage: 797,216 acre-feet; River Release: 2,000 cfs; Inflow: 2,770 cfs;

## **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

The BIA called and requested an increase in diversions to the Bighorn Canal. Recent streamflow measurements also conducted by the USGS, indicate actual flows in the Bighorn River and Canal vary from that previously scheduled. As a result, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant and Afterbay Dam.

## **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 1600 hour on Thursday, May 17, 2012:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 2,320 cfs ( $\approx 1,270$  MW-Hours/day using 43.8 cfs/mw).*

## **AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 1600 hour on Thursday, May 17, 2012:**

*Increase diversions to the Bighorn Canal to 510 cfs (gage height = 73.85 with new shift of +0.65).*

*Maintain river release at 1,880 cfs (gage height = 59.74 with new shift of -0.27).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 2,390 cfs.*

**Special Note: To accomplish ongoing contract work on the Afterbay Dam sluice gates and sluice gate water way, the level of the Afterbay must be maintained between the elevations 3186-3190 at all times.**

/S/ Tim H. Felchle