



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Missouri Basin Region

Montana Area Office

PO Box 30137

Billings, MT 59107-0137

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MT-450

December 1, 2025

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
Project Manager, Mills, Wyoming
Attention: WY-4000, WY-4100, WY-6040
Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming
Attention: Acting

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 26-08**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3631.71 feet; Storage: 912,994 acre-feet; River Release: 2,050 cfs; Canal Diversion: 0 cfs
Inflow: 1,230 cfs; River Gage Shift: -1.75 feet

GENERAL COMMENTS:

A shift change is being applied to the river gage based on recent streamflow and power generation data. In response, the following operation changes are required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant and Afterbay Dam.

SPECIAL NOTE: To provide the proper mixing of water releases to the Bighorn River in attempt to minimize PSAT levels, it is desirable to maintain the Yellowtail Afterbay Reservoir between a maximum elevation of 3192.0 feet and a minimum elevation of 3183.0 feet and provide a mixing flow of approximately 75% through the radial gates and 25% through the sluice gates.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Monday, December 1, 2025:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 1,980 cfs. ($\approx 1,475$ MW-Hours/day using 32.2 cfs/mw)

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Monday, December 1, 2025:

Maintain diversion to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.

Maintain river release at 2,050 cfs. (gage height = 61.32 ft and apply a new shift of -1.69 ft)

Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 2,050 cfs.