

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Emergency Condition Notification Form

Date: Wednesday June 29, 2011 (2nd Release)

Time: 4:00 PM (MDT)

Facility Affected: Yellowtail Dam **River(s) Affected:** Bighorn River

Organizations Receiving this Notification:

Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services

Crow Tribe

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Montana Department of Transportation

National Park Service at Ft. Smith

National Weather Service Forecaster – Billings

Montana State Disaster & Emergency Services – District V, Billings

Montana State Disaster & Emergency Services – Helena

US Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha, Nebraska

Bureau of Reclamation - Great Plains Regional Office

Treasure, Rosebud, and Custer County Dispatch 24-hr Warning Points

Condition Description

Current Conditions – Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn River:

- Reservoir Elevation: 3642.63 feet
- Elevation of the top of Exclusive Flood Control Pool: 3657.0 feet
- Reservoir Release: 13,000 cubic-feet per second (cfs)
- 24-hour average inflow: 18,400 cfs
- Feet to Fill (Top of Joint-Use): 0.00 feet (the reservoir filled to this level on June 26)
- Exclusive Flood Control Storage Utilized: 12.2 percent of 258,331 acre-feet available

In support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control operations on the Missouri River Mainstem, releases from Yellowtail Dam to the Bighorn River are being reduced as follows:

Wednesday, June 29 at 4:00 PM: Releases from Yellowtail Dam will be reduced 1,000 cfs from a rate of approximately 13,000 cfs to approximately 12,000 cfs.

Thursday, June 30 at 8:00 AM: Releases from Yellowtail Dam will be reduced 500 cfs from a rate of approximately 12,000 cfs to approximately 11,500 cfs.

Thursday, June 30 at 4:00 PM: Releases from Yellowtail Dam will be reduced 1000 cfs from a rate of approximately 11,500 cfs to approximately 10,500 cfs.

Friday, July 1 at 4:00 PM: Releases from Yellowtail Dam will be reduced 1,000 cfs from a rate of approximately 10,500 cfs to approximately 9,500 cfs.

Saturday, July 2 at 4:00 PM: Releases from Yellowtail Dam will be reduced 1,000 cfs from a rate of approximately 9,500 cfs to approximately 8,500 cfs.

Inflows and releases from Yellowtail Dam are currently below levels requiring an elevated response level and increased notifications to downstream authorities and affected agencies. However, the current warm temperatures throughout the Bighorn Basin may result in inflows exceeding 20,000 cfs again. Therefore, Reclamation is continuing this increased communication. There are no dam safety related conditions or concerns with Yellowtail or Yellowtail Afterbay Dams.

1. Potential River Levels and Times of Arrival

The following provides the approximate travel times and river stage rises from Yellowtail Dam to reach key locations along the Bighorn River:

<u>Bighorn River Location</u>	<u>Approximate Travel Time</u>	<u>Approximate River Stage Reduction per 1,000 cfs Reduction</u>
Two Leggins Bridge	7-9 hours	0.30 – 0.40 ft
Hardin	10-12 hours	0.30 – 0.40 ft
Confluence with the Yellowstone River	24 hours	0.20 ft

2. Actions Taken by Reclamation

Reclamation continues to monitor the snowmelt runoff conditions in the Bighorn River Basin. Reclamation also continues to coordinate our daily operations at Yellowtail Dam with the Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services, Crow Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Corp of Engineers.

3. Actions Expected of Downstream Agencies

Be advised that changes in these scheduled reductions may occur should conditions in the Bighorn River Basin change. Additionally, there is potential that flows from Yellowtail Dam to the Bighorn River may need to be increased again in the coming weeks as the Exclusive Flood Control Pool fills.

4. For Additional Information

Steve Davies
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Montana Area Office
Office: 406-247-7322
Cell: 406-855-1446
sdavies@usbr.gov

6. Media Inquiries:

Paula Holwegner
U.S Bureau of Reclamation
Montana Area Office
Office: 406-247-7300
Cell: 406-670-5158
pholwegner@usbr.gov