

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Emergency Condition Notification Form

Date: Sunday July 3, 2011

Time: 10:00 AM (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 at 8:00 AM:

- Reservoir Elevation: 3646.11 feet, an increase of 1.0 feet in the last 24-hours
- Elevation of the top of Exclusive Flood Control Pool: 3657.0 feet
- Reservoir Release: 8,500 cubic-feet per second (cfs)
- 24-hour average inflow: 17,200 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: 32.4 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 maintained at 8,500 cfs for the next several days.

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

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6. Media Inquiries:

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