

## U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Emergency Condition Notification Form

**Date:** Friday, August 12, 2011

**Time:** 7:00 AM (MDT)

**Facility Affected:** Yellowtail Dam

**River(s) Affected:** Bighorn River

### **Organizations Receiving this Notification:**

Current conditions at Yellowtail Dam do not require formal notifications. The status update below is for informational purposes only.

**Special Notice:** We will be discontinuing sending this notification by email and fax on Monday, August 15. Future updates will continue to be posted daily at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao>.

### **Condition Description**

Current Conditions – Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn River:

- Reservoir Elevation: 3649.25 feet, a decrease of about 0.33 feet in the last 24 hours.
- Elevation of the top of the Joint-Use Pool (normal Full-pool level): 3640.0 feet
- Elevation of the top of Exclusive Flood Control Pool: 3657.0 feet
- Release to the Bighorn River: 6,745 cubic-feet per second (cfs)
- 24-hour average inflow: 5,000 cfs
- Exclusive Flood Control Storage Utilized: 50.7 percent of 258,331 acre-feet available

In order to control the rate of evacuation of the flood storage pool, and in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, releases to the Bighorn River are scheduled to be changed as follows:

Monday, August 15 at 4:00 PM: Releases to the Bighorn River will be reduced by 500 cfs from 6,745 cfs to about 6,245 cfs

There are no dam safety related conditions or concerns with Yellowtail or Yellowtail Afterbay Dams. Inflows and releases from Yellowtail Dam have dropped below levels requiring an elevated response level and increased notifications to downstream authorities and affected agencies. However, at current river levels there is increased potential for local flooding should a heavy precipitation event occur downstream of Yellowtail Dam.

### **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 Increase per 500 cfs change</u>
Two Leggins Bridge	7-9 hours	0.17 – 0.20 feet
Hardin	10-12 hours	0.15 – 0.17 feet
Confluence with the Yellowstone River	24 hours	0.12 – 0.15 feet

## **2. Actions Taken by Reclamation**

Reclamation continues to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding our operations at Yellowtail to safely manage the remaining flood control storage in Yellowtail Reservoir. We are continuing to post updates to the operational conditions at Yellowtail Dam on the Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Area Office website at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao>

## **3. Actions Expected of Downstream Agencies**

Please be advised that continued reductions in releases to the Bighorn River will be scheduled in the coming weeks to continue controlling the rate of evacuation of the flood storage pool, as well as to stage down Bighorn River Flows in a controlled manner. Currently we are anticipating these reductions to occur about once per week.

## **4. For Additional Information**

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## **5. Media Inquiries:**

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