



# 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

March 11, 2014

## **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-6040  
Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming  
Attention: Valerie Newman

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana /S/ Clayton R. Jordan

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 14-28**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS**

Elevation: 3629.58; Storage: 907,511 acre-feet; River Release: 4,000 cfs; Inflow: 8,470 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Mountain snowpack in the Bighorn river Basin is well above average. Unseasonably warm weather is quickly melting the low elevation snow causing inflows into Bighorn Lake to increase to over 8,400 cfs. As a result, storage in Bighorn Lake is slowly refilling. To continue evacuating storage as planned in preparation for the snowmelt runoff, releases will be increased. In response, the following operations 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 at or above elevation 3183.0 feet.**

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 0800 hour on Thursday, March 13, 2014:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 4,930 cfs ( $\approx$  3,575 MW-Hours/day using 33.1 cfs/mw).*

**Restrict and limit turbine releases to 3-unit capacity.**

### **AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 0800 hour on Thursday, March 13, 2014:**

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.*

*Increase river release to 5,000 cfs (increase the gage height to 61.64 with a 0.0 shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 5,000 cfs.*