



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 19, 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

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 14-30 REVISED**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

Elevation: 3628.75; Storage: 900,065 acre-feet; River Release: 5,000 cfs; Inflow: 2,390 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mountain snowpack in the Bighorn river Basin remains over 130% of average. Unseasonably warm weather continues to melt the low elevation snow, causing inflows into Bighorn Lake to remain near 2,400 cfs. Scheduled maintenance on Unit No. 4 has been completed. To continue evacuating storage as planned in preparation for the anticipated 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 20, 2014:

Increase average daily turbine release to 5,430 cfs (\approx 4,370 MW-Hours/day using 29.8 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 0800 hour on Thursday, March 20, 2014:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.

Increase river release to 5,500 cfs (increase the gage height to 61.89 with a 0.0 shift).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to 5,500 cfs.