



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

February 25, 2015

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. 15-17**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3629.73; Storage: 908,870 acre-feet; River Release: 3,000 cfs; Inflow: 2,315 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Yellowtail Powerplant will be limited to Unit 4 operation for portions of Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27, 2015, for work being conducted by WAPA in the switchyard. Releases to the Bighorn River will be maintained at 3,000 cfs during the work.

Releases will be increased on Monday, March 2, 2015, to meet targeted reservoir elevations by early spring. In response, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail 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 between a maximum elevation of 3192.0 feet and a minimum elevation of 3183.6 feet and provide a mixing flow of approximately 75% through the spillway gates and 25% through the sluice gates, plus or minus 10%.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

During 1400 hour through 1700 hour on Thursday, February 26, 2015:

Decrease average daily turbine release to $\approx 2,280$ cfs ($\approx 1,488$ MW-Hours/day using 36.8 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 1-unit capacity.

During 1000 hour through 1400 hour on Friday, February 27, 2015:

Decrease average daily turbine release to $\approx 2,280$ cfs ($\approx 1,488$ MW-Hours/day using 36.8 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 1-unit capacity.

At 1600 hour on Monday, March 2, 2015:

Increase average daily turbine release to $\approx 3,130$ cfs ($\approx 2,040$ MW-Hours/day using 36.8 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

During 1400 hour on Thursday, February 26, 2015 through 1400 hour on Friday, February 27, 2015:

Maintain diversion to the Bighorn Canal at 0.

Maintain river release at 3,000 cfs (gage height = 60.26 with a +0.13 ft shift).

Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 3,000 cfs.

At 1600 hour on Monday, March 2, 2015:

Maintain diversion to the Bighorn Canal at 0.

Increase river release to 3,200 cfs (gage height = 60.40 with a +0.13 ft shift).

Increase total release from the Afterbay at 3,200 cfs.