



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 30, 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. 15-21**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3625.37; Storage: 871,120 acre-feet; River Release: 3,500 cfs; Inflow: 2,460 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Preliminary water supply forecasts indicate releases need to be reduced. 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:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, April 1, 2015:

Decrease average daily turbine release to 3,180 cfs (\approx 2,225 MW-Hours/day using 34.3 cfs/mw).

At 1600 hour on Thursday, April 2, 2015:

Decrease average daily turbine release to 2,930 cfs (\approx 2,050 MW-Hours/day using 34.3 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Wednesday, April 1, 2015:

Maintain diversion to the Bighorn Canal at 0.

Decrease river release to 3,250 cfs (gage height = 60.52 and apply a shift of +0.05 ft).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay at 3,250 cfs.

At 1600 hour on Thursday, April 2, 2015:

Maintain diversion to the Bighorn Canal at 0.

Decrease river release to 3,000 cfs (gage height = 60.34 and apply a shift of +0.05 ft).

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