



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

May 5, 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. 15-29**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3621.32; Storage: 839,106 acre-feet; River Release: 2,200 cfs; Inflow: 2,030 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Turbine releases will be limited to Unit 4 (maximum of ≈ 62 MW) on May 6 and May 15 while Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is performing work in the Yellowtail Switchyard. WAPA is scheduling generation at 25 MW during the work periods but if needed full capacity of Unit 4 is available. 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 1100 hour through 1400 hour on Wednesday, May 6, 2015:

Decrease average daily turbine release to ≈ 945 cfs (≈ 600 MW-Hours/day using 37.8 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 1-unit capacity.

During 1500 hour through 1700 hour on Friday, May 15, 2015:

Decrease average daily turbine release to ≈ 945 cfs (≈ 600 MW-Hours/day using 37.8 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 1-unit capacity.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

During 1100 hour through 1400 hour on Wednesday, May 6, 2015:

Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 300 cfs (gauge height = 72.50 with a -0.02 ft shift).

Maintain river release at 2,200 cfs (gauge height = 59.93 with a -0.17 ft shift).

Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 2,500 cfs.

During 1500 hour through 1700 hour on Friday, May 15, 2015:

Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 300 cfs (gauge height = 72.50 with a -0.02 ft shift).

Maintain river release at 2,200 cfs (gauge height = 59.93 with a -0.17 ft shift).

Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 2,500 cfs.