



# 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 27, 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/ Tim H. Felchle

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 15-36**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3629.54; Storage: 907,149 acre-feet; River Release: 3,500 cfs; Inflow: 9,940 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Frequent rain showers accompanied by the snowmelt runoff are continuing to maintain high inflows into Yellowtail Dam. Recent streamflow and canal flow measurements indicated flows were lower than anticipated. To control the runoff and slow the rate of fill, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

#### **At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 27, 2015:**

*Increase average daily turbine release at 4,330 cfs ( $\approx$  2,810 MW-Hours/day using 37.0 cfs/mw).*

#### **At 0600 hour on Thursday, May 28, 2015:**

*Increase average daily turbine release at 4,830 cfs ( $\approx$  3,130 MW-Hours/day using 37.0 cfs/mw).*

#### **At 1600 hour on Thursday, May 28, 2015:**

*Increase average daily turbine release at 5,330 cfs ( $\approx$  3,460 MW-Hours/day using 37.0 cfs/mw).*

**Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.**

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

#### **At 1600 hour on Wednesday, May 27, 2015:**

*Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 400 cfs (gage height = 73.17 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase river release to 4,000 cfs (gage height = 61.34 with a -0.28 ft shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay at 4,400 cfs*

#### **At 0600 hour on Thursday, May 28, 2015:**

*Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 400 cfs (gage height = 73.17 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase river release to 4,500 cfs (gage height = 61.64 with a -0.28 ft shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay at 4,900 cfs*

#### **At 1600 hour on Thursday, May 28, 2015:**

*Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 400 cfs (gage height = 73.17 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase river release to 5,000 cfs (gage height = 61.92 with a -0.28 ft shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay at 5,400 cfs*