



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

June 2, 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/ Stephanie Micek

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 15-43**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3636.54; Storage: 978,921 acre-feet; River Release: 9,500 cfs; Inflow: 13,230 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Stream flows in the Bighorn River Basin continue to remain high. Releases out of Boysen and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs continue to be increased to control the rate of fill. To slow the rate of fill of storage in Bighorn Lake, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 2000 hour on Wednesday, June 3, 2015:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,830 cfs (\approx 3,480 MW-Hours/day using 33.3 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 2000 hour on Wednesday, June 3, 2015:

Increase release through the spillway gates to \approx 7,000 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 2000 hour on Wednesday, June 3, 2015:

Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 325 cfs (gage height = 72.66 with a 0.0 ft shift).

Increase river release to 11,575 cfs (gage height = 64.33 with a 0.0 ft shift).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to 11,900 cfs