



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

July 8, 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. 15-57**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3643.39; Storage: 1,065,338 acre-feet; River Release: 6,000 cfs; Inflow: 4,730 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Releases to the Bighorn River will be decreased as inflows into Bighorn Lake have continued to decline. 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 3185.0 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 1500 hour on Wednesday, July 8, 2015:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,410 cfs (\approx 3,480 MW-Hours/day using 30.4 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 1500 hour on Wednesday, July 8, 2015:

Decrease release through the spillway gates to 0 cfs.

At 1500 hour on Wednesday, July 8, 2015:

Increase release through the river outlet works to \approx 1,500 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1500 hour on Wednesday, July 8, 2015:

Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 480 cfs (gage height = 74.40 with a -0.74 ft shift).

Decrease river release to 5,500 cfs (gage height = 62.02 with a -0.12 ft shift).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 5,980 cfs.