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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



April 24, 2006

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-6400
Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming
Attention: Jim Staebler

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 06-12**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3608.31; Storage: 792,690 acre-feet; River Release: 2,500 cfs; Inflow: 1,640 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The annual inspection of the spillway tunnel on Yellowtail Dam is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2006. During this time, **the maximum tailwater elevation must be maintained at or below elevation 3183 during 0900-1400 hour** to allow boats to safely enter the spillway stilling basin for inspection of the spillway tunnel.

NOTE: This is the time period when fish are more susceptible to high levels of nitrogen gas super-saturation. To provide a more desirable mixing flow of approximately 75% through the spillway gates and 25% through the sluice gates to maintain the total gas super-saturation levels at safe limits, the minimum Afterbay elevation should be maintained at or above elevation 3183 whenever possible. This is only a soft limit and may be deviated from during special or emergency operations.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

During 0900 hour through 1400 hour on Wednesday, May 3, 2006:

Maintain tailwater elevation at or below elevation 3183 to allow boats to safely enter the spillway stilling for inspection of the spillway tunnel.

This special operation shall not interfere with or disrupt previously scheduled releases to the Bighorn River.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle