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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



May 22, 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. 06-17**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3604.58; Storage: 770,458 acre-feet; River Release: 2,500 cfs; Inflow: 4,415 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The BIA has requested additional increases in irrigation deliveries to the Bighorn Canal. As a result, the following operation changes are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant.

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.

TURBINE RELEASES:

At 0900 hour on Monday, May 22, 2006:

Increase average daily turbine release to 2,830 cfs (\approx 1,820 MW-Hrs/day using 37.3 cfs/mw)..

At 1500 hour on Monday, May 22, 2006:

Increase average daily turbine release to 2,880 cfs (\approx 1,850 MW-Hrs/day using 37.3 cfs/mw)..

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 0900 hour on Monday, May 22, 2006:

Increase diversions to the Bighorn Canal to 400 cfs (gage height = 73.80 with 0.0 shift).

Maintain river release at 2,500 cfs (gage height = 60.49 with a shift of -0.49).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to 2,900 cfs.

At 1500 hour on Monday, May 22, 2006:

Increase diversions to the Bighorn Canal to 450 cfs (gage height = 74.13 with 0.0 shift).

Maintain river release at 2,500 cfs (gage height = 60.49 with a shift of -0.49).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to 2,950 cfs.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle