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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 23, 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. 06-18**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3605.31; Storage: 774,702 acre-feet; River Release: 2,500 cfs; Inflow: 4,920 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

The BIA has requested an additional increase 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 1300 hour on Tuesday, May 23, 2006:**

*Increase average daily turbine release to 2,930 cfs ( $\approx$  1,885 MW-Hrs/day using 37.3 cfs/mw).*

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

**At 1300 hour on Tuesday, May 23, 2006:**

*Increase diversions to the Bighorn Canal to 500 cfs (gage height = 74.44 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 3,000 cfs.*

/S/ Tim H. Felchle