



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



May 25, 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. 06-20**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3607.41; Storage: 787,198 acre-feet; River Release: 2,500 cfs; Inflow: 6,760 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Western Area Power Administration has scheduled maintenance in the switchyard, requiring Units 3 & 4 to be taken off line. As a result, the following operation change is required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant, restricting power generation to 2-unit capacity.

**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:**

**During 0700-1400 hour on Wednesday, May 31, 2006:**

*Maintain average daily turbine release at 2,680 cfs ( $\approx$  1,780 MW-Hrs/day using 36.1 cfs/mw).*

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

**During 0700-1400 hour on Wednesday, May 31, 2006:**

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 500 cfs (gage height = 74.44 with 0.0 shift).*

*Maintain river release at 2,250 cfs (gage height = 60.29 with a shift of -0.49).*

*Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 2,750 cfs.*

**SPECIAL NOTE: With Units #3 & #4 off-line during this maintenance, turbine releases will be restricted to 2-unit capacity.**

/S/ Tim H. Felchle