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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



July 14, 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. 06-31**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3609.51; Storage: 800,139 acre-feet; River Release: 1,500 cfs; Inflow: 1,070 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

An inspection of the spillway tunnel on Yellowtail Dam is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2006. During this time, **the maximum tailwater elevation must be maintained at or below elevation 3183 during 0700-1700 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 0700 hour through 1700 hour on Tuesday, July 18, 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