



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



September 5, 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. 06-38**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3598.43; Storage: 735,982 acre-feet; River Release: 1,500 cfs; Inflow: 1,860 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The BIA requested a reduction in diversions to the Bighorn Canal. In response, this FAXOGRAM confirms the actual operation change that was made at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant on August 31, 2006.

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:

Beginning at 1700 hour on Thursday, August 31, 2006:

Decrease average daily turbine release to 1,830 cfs (\approx 829 MW-Hrs/day using 53.4 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

Beginning at 1700 hour on Thursday, August 31, 2006:

Decrease diversions to the Bighorn Canal to 400 cfs (gage height at 74.08 using a shift of -0.28).

Maintain river release at 1,500 cfs (gage height at 59.30 using shift of -0.23).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 1,900 cfs.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle