



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



August 15, 2007

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
Area 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. 07-39**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3632.86; Storage: 988,144 acre-feet; River Release: 1,750 cfs; Inflow: 1,390 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) called and informed Reclamation about a state of emergency regarding power generation. Mount Elbert powerplant was experiencing problems with their generating units which was affecting WAPA's peaking power capability. In response and assist WAPA in resolving the issue, Reclamation agreed to revise the restrictions stated in **Water Release Order – BHR No. 07-36** as follows and allow the Comprehensive Facility Review to continue at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and the Afterbay Dam.

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 all inspections conducted during August 13-15, 2007:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 2,130 cfs (\approx 1,495 MW-Hrs/day using 34.2 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

During all inspections conducted during August 13-15, 2007:

Maintain diversions to Bighorn Canal at 450 cfs (gage height = 74.40 with a shift of -0.27).

Maintain river release at 1,750 cfs (gage height = 59.45 with a shift of -0.11).

Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 2,200 cfs.

Note: During 0600-1000 hour on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, maintain the Afterbay no higher than elevation 3179 to allow for inspection of the upstream side of the Afterbay spillway overflow gates.

Note: During 1000-1200 hour on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, maintain the tailwater of Yellowtail Dam no higher than elevation 3183 to allow for inspection of the Yellowtail Dam spillway tunnel. At the conclusion of the inspections on August 15, normal operations shall resume as previously scheduled.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle