



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



April 21, 2008

## **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. 08-10**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3609.88; Storage: 802,464 acre-feet; River Release: 1,900 cfs; Inflow: 1,770 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

An inspection and maintenance of the spillway gates on the Yellowtail Afterbay Dam has been scheduled for May 7, 2008. During this time, **the level of the Afterbay must be maintained at or below elevation 3179** to allow staff to safely inspect the spillway gates. In response, the following operation will be required at Yellowtail Dam, Powerplant, and 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.**

### **SPECIAL OPERATIONS:**

**During 1300 hour through 1600 hour during May 7, 2008:**

*Maintain level of the Afterbay at or below elevation 3179 to allow staff to safely inspect the spillway gates on the Afterbay Dam.*

**This special operation shall not interfere with or deviate from the previously scheduled releases to the Bighorn River.**

/S/ Tim H. Felchle