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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



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. 08-11**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

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

GENERAL COMMENTS:

A recent storm on Sunday brought cooler temperatures and precipitation to the State. To continue with ongoing automation work on the Afterbay canal gates, Reclamation requested a delay in deliveries to the BIA canal, due to the recent precipitation. The BIA has agreed to delay the irrigation deliveries for at least 2 days. During that time, Reclamation will continue to notify the BIA of its progress. In response the irrigation deliveries scheduled in the Water Release Order BHR No. 08-09 issued on April 18, 2008 will be postponed until a later date expected this week. However, due to the inflows continuing to remain well below normal, the following operation change is required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant in an effort to conserve storage in Bighorn Lake.

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:

At 0900 hour on Monday, April 21, 2008:

Decrease average daily turbine release to 1,580 cfs (\approx 945 MW-Hrs/day using 40.1 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 0900 hour on Monday, April 21, 2008:

Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs (gage height = 68.50 with 0.0 shift).

Decrease river release to 1,650 cfs (gage height = 59.54 with a shift of -0.05).

Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 1,650 cfs.

/S/ Tim H. Felchle