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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 31, 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. 08-46**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3641.67; Storage: 1,091,569 acre-feet; River Release: 2,750 cfs; Inflow: 1,960 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

In response to releases from Boysen and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs being decreased, the inflow to Bighorn Lake continues to decline significantly. To conserve storage and control the rate of evacuation of storage in the exclusive flood pool, the following operation change is required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant.

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.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1700 hour on Thursday, July 31, 2008:

Decrease average daily turbine release to \approx 2,880 cfs (\approx 2,110 MW-Hrs/day using 32.8 cfs/mw).

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1700 hour on Thursday, July 31, 2008:

*Maintain diversions to the Bighorn Canal at 450 cfs (gage height = 74.13 with 0.0 shift).
Decrease river release to 2,500 cfs (decrease gage height to 60.42 & apply new shift -0.42).
Decrease total release from the Afterbay to 2,950 cfs.*

/S/ Tim H. Felchle