



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Great Plains Region
Montana Area Office



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450 P.O. Box 30137
Billings, Montana 59107-0137

December 21, 2016

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-6040
Superintendent, National Park Service, Fort Smith, Wyoming
Attention: Acting Superintendent

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana /s/ Clayton R. Jordan

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 17-12**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3633.78 feet; Storage: 948,495 acre-feet; River Release: 2,610 cfs; Inflow: 710 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Recent streamflow measurements by the USGS indicate river flows are higher than anticipated requiring a shift change on the Bighorn River streamgauge. The following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

SPECIAL NOTE: To provide the proper mixing of water releases to the Bighorn River in attempt to minimize PSAT levels, it is desirable to maintain the Yellowtail Afterbay Reservoir between a maximum elevation of 3192.0 feet and a minimum elevation of 3183.0 feet and provide a mixing flow of approximately 75% through the spillway gates and 25% through the sluice gates.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 1600 hour on Thursday, December 22, 2016:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 2,540 cfs (\approx 1,825 MW-Hours/day using 33.4 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 1600 hour on Thursday, December 22, 2016:

Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 0 cfs.

Maintain river release at 2,610 cfs (gage height = 60.09 ft and apply a new shift of 0.00 ft).

Maintain total release from the Afterbay at 2,610 cfs.