

Rate class	Present rate	New rate
Street Lighting (metered):		
Basic Charge .....	\$11.00/mo (includes 107kwh) .....	\$11.00.
Energy Charge .....	\$0.0560/kwh (over 107 kwh) .....	\$0.05615.
Street Lighting (Unmetered) .....	This rate class applies to municipalities or communities where there are ten or more lighting units billed in a group. This rate schedule is subject to a negotiated contract with MVP.	No change.

\*Continuing service only.

A notice of proposed rate change was published in the Federal Register on September 18, 1995 (60 FR 48345-48347). A 30-day comment period was allowed. The Bureau received no comments.

Dated: October 17, 1995.

Ada E. Deer,

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

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## Bureau of Land Management

[NM-030-7122-03-8546]

### Proposed Expansion of the Continental Mine in Grant County, New Mexico

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Notice of Scoping Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the BLM, Las Cruces District Office, will be directing the preparation of an EIS to be prepared by a third party contractor. The EIS will describe the potential impacts of Cobre Mining Company's proposed Continental Expansion Project at its Continental Mine located approximately 3 miles north of the town of Hanover in Grant County, New Mexico. The proposed development would occur partially on patented Cobre land and partially on Federal land administered by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The public is invited to participate in the planning process. A public scoping meeting will be held at the following time and location:

**TIME/DATE/LOCATION:** 7:00 p.m., November 15, 1995, Grant County Courthouse Bldg., Third Floor Conference Room, 201 North Cooper Street, Silver City, New Mexico.

**DATES:** Written comments on the scoping process will be accepted through November 27, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Chuck O'Donnell, BLM, Las Cruces

District, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chuck O'Donnell, BLM Las Cruces District Office, at (505) 525-4373.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On April 12, 1995, Cobre Mining Company submitted a Plan of Operations (POO) to expand mining activities at the Continental Mine. It was determined by the BLM that the preparation of an EIS would be required for these operations. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Cobre Mining Company, the BLM, and the USFS outlining the responsibilities of each party has been executed.

Cobre is currently engaged in mining ore using open pit and underground mining methods. The primary production metal is copper, with the potential for zinc, silver, gold and magnetite recovery as a by-product. Ore is crushed and processed via milling on-site. Tailings material generated in the milling process is discharged to an on-site tailings pond.

The copper mineralization within the Hanover Mountain deposit is predominantly chalcocite, and is economically recoverable by acid heap leaching techniques, followed by solvent extraction (SX) and electrowinning (EW) to produce cathode copper.

Development of Hanover Mountain will take place on land owned by Cobre, and will eventually extend onto BLM land. Expansion of the Continental pit and underground working will occur on or beneath property owned by Cobre, and on or beneath land administered by BLM and the USFS.

Proposed activities and facilities for the Continental Expansion Project include: open pit mining at Hanover Mountain, expansion of the Continental open pit, development of additional underground mining operations, ore crushing and conveying, waste rock disposal, heap leaching, solvent extraction, electrowinning, ancillary facilities, including a truck stop, change rooms, water supply, electrical substation and power distribution.

The Hanover Mountain ore body will be mined using conventional open pit mining techniques and equipment. The

planned rate of ore mining of Hanover Mountain is 10 million tons per year. The primary waste rock disposal area for the Continental Expansion Project is located west of Hanover Mountain. Waste rock disposal for current mining operations occurs on two waste rock dumps located south and east of the current Continental Pit. Placement of approximately 88 million tons of waste rock is planned on 233 acres, of which 179 acres are administered by the BLM. Additional waste rock capacity of a combined 82 million tons is planned on Cobre patented land. Waste rock will also be used to stabilize leach pad sites, for haul roads and process facilities, and to shape and stabilize existing mine waste rock dumps. Ore from the proposed Hanover Pit will be delivered to a primary crusher. Crushed ore will be stockpiled and reclaimed to a secondary crushing plant. Crushing facilities will be located north of the existing office facilities on Cobre patented land.

Ore crushed to nominal one-inch size will be conveyed and stacked onto a lined leach pad. A drip emitter or spray irrigation system will be placed over the ore pile, and acidic solution will be percolated through the ore for 90 to 120 days. A pad liner and drainage pipes will collect and drain the solution to a pregnant leach solution (PLS) pond. The PLS will be pumped to a SX/EW facility for copper recovery.

The primary area for leaching will be the Fierro area, with a design capacity of approximately 92 million tons. The Fierro leach pad will be developed in phases, with the initial phase taking place on Cobre property. Later phases of development will expand the 177-acre leach pad to include 50 acres of land administered by the BLM. Additional leaching capacity of up to 89 million tons may be developed south of the existing Continental Pit, which encompasses 67 acres of BLM land.

The SX/EW plant will be located entirely on Cobre patented land on the east side of County Road 3-5, north of the Fierro town site.

As the Hanover Pit expands toward its design limit, it will become necessary to re-route drainage from the upper portion of Hanover Creek around mining

operations. This may be accomplished through either gravity flow or pumping through either a pipeline or a relocated stream channel.

In order to ensure continued access to lands north of the Continental Mine, the expansion of the Hanover Pit will also require the relocation of County Road 3-5 around mining operations. Surface mining operations currently conducted at the Continental Mine produce approximately 10,000 tons of ore per day from the Continental Pit. Exploratory drilling has indicated that economic ore reserves recoverable by open pit mining techniques occur around the perimeter of the existing Continental Pit. Based on these results, the existing pit is proposed to be expanded. Expansion of the pit will include additional land owned by Cobre, and BLM land, and may also include approximately 7 acres of USFS land.

Cobre also currently conducts underground mining activities at the Continental Mine site. Between 2,000 and 5,000 tons per day of ore are crushed in an underground crushing facility. The crushed ore is transported to the surface and is sent to either the #1 Mill by conveyor or to the #2 Mill stockpile by truck for processing.

Due to the nature and depth of mining activities and the rock stability in the mining area, no subsidence has occurred, and none is expected to occur.

Reclamation of the site will comply with BLM provisions of an approved reclamation plan and plan of operations. It is anticipated that the New Mexico Mining Act regulations will also be instrumental for ultimate closure requirements. The BLM and the USFS will determine "post mining land use" for the portions of the pit areas, the waste rock dumps, and the leach pads located on Federal land.

The objective of the reclamation plan will be to minimize public safety hazards, and to provide for long-term protection of the environment and restoration of the site to a condition consistent with planned long-term land use. Major components of the reclamation plan are anticipated to include: rinsing the leach heaps to remove residual copper-bearing solution; recontouring the top surfaces of the leach heaps and the waste rock dumps; removal of buildings, equipment and foundations; recontouring roads, building sites and other disturbed areas; protection of natural stream channels and permanent diversion ditches at strategic points to ensure long-term stability; and blocking access to the open pits. An evaluation of the stability of proposed slopes of the

reclaimed open pit, waste rock dump slopes, and heap leach slopes will be performed. After initial dewatering and drying, the tailings will be re-contoured and capped.

The EIS will address the resources of geology and minerals, soils, water resources, vegetation, wildlife, range management, air quality, visual resources, reclamation, land use, access, recreation, wilderness, cultural resources, social and economic values, transportation and noise. The BLM has identified the following potentially significant impacts as requiring additional analysis: quality of post-mining surface and ground water generated by the Continental and Hanover open pits; potential impacts to surface and ground water from acid mine drainage from the mine's waste rock dumps; potential impacts to ground water from the mine's tailings impoundment; potential impacts of the diversion of Hanover Creek; potential impacts of the re-routing of County Road 3-5.

Because these issues were determined to require special investigation, it is anticipated that the majority of work for other resources will be limited to summarizing and incorporating by reference data and analyses from existing environmental studies as prescribed in 40 CFR § 1500.4 and § 1500.5. Additional investigation may be indicated for other resources after review of existing data and comments received during the scoping process.

BLM's scoping process for the EIS will include: (1) identification of issues to be addressed; (2) identification of viable alternatives; and (3) notifying interested groups, individuals, and agencies so that additional information concerning these issues can be obtained. The scoping will consist of a news release announcing the start of the EIS process; letters of invitation to participate in the scoping process; and a scoping document which further clarifies the proposed action and significant issues being considered to be distributed to those on the mailing list and available upon request.

Dated: October 18, 1995.

Linda S. C. Rundell,

*District Manager, Las Cruces.*

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## National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing

in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before October 14, 1995. Pursuant to section 60.13 of 36 CFR Part 60 written comments concerning the significance of these properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation may be forwarded to the National Register, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127. Written comments should be submitted by November 8, 1995.

Carol D. Shull,

*Keeper of the National Register.*

## ARIZONA

### Gila County

Rye Creek Ruin Platform Mound Complex  
Archeological District, Address Restricted,  
Rye vicinity, 95001311

### Maricopa County

Sears—Kay Ruin, Address Restricted,  
Carefree vicinity, 95001310

### Pima County

Kentucky Camp Historic District, Address  
Restricted, Sonoita vicinity, 95001312

## COLORADO

### Denver County

Highlands Masonic Lodge, 3220 Federal  
Blvd., Denver, 95001337

### El Paso County

El Pomar Estate, 1661 Mesa Ave., Colorado  
Springs, 95001328

### Larimer County

Harmony Mill, 131 Lincoln Ave., Fort  
Collins, 95001327

### Mesa County

Loma Community Hall, 1341 Co. Rd. 13,  
Loma, 95001338

### Morgan County

Fort Morgan City Hall, 110 Main St., Fort  
Morgan, 95001339

## CONNECTICUT

### Fairfield County

Agudas Achim Synagogue (Historic  
Synagogues of Connecticut MPS), 320-324  
Madison Ave., Bridgeport, 95001340

Bikur Cholim Synagogue (Historic  
Synagogues of Connecticut MPS), 1545  
Iranistan Ave., Bridgeport, 95001341

Bradley Edge Tool Company Historic District,  
Roughly, Lyons Plains Rd. N and S of jct.  
with White Birch Rd., Weston, 95001347

Ein Jacob (Ayn Yacob) Synagogue (Historic  
Synagogues of Connecticut MPS), 746 (aka  
748) Connecticut Ave., Bridgeport,  
95001342

Kettle Creek Historic District, Roughly,  
Weston and Old Weston Rds. N of Broad  
St., Weston, 95001348

### Hartford County

Temple Beth Israel (Historic Synagogues of  
Connecticut MPS), 701 Farmington Ave.,  
West Hartford, 95001343

### Litchfield County