hold a formal meeting for the purpose of inquiring into the reasoning, analyses, and factual bases for the proposed finding. The proceedings of this meeting shall be on the record. The meeting record shall be available to any participating party and become part of the record considered by the Assistant Secretary in reaching a final determination (83.10(j)(2)).

If third party submissions are received during the regular response period, the petitioner shall have a minimum of 60 days to respond to these submissions. This period may be extended at the Assistant Secretary's discretion if warranted by the nature and extent of the comments (83.10(k)).

At the end of the response periods for comment on this proposed finding, the Assistant Secretary shall consider the written arguments and evidence submitted during the response periods and issue a final determination. The Assistant Secretary shall consult with the petitioner and interested parties to determine an equitable time frame for preparation of the final determination and notify the petitioner and interested parties of the date such consideration begins (83.10(1)). The Assistant Secretary may conduct any necessary additional research and may request additional information from the petitioner and commenting parties (83.10(l)(1)). A summary of the final determination will be published in the Federal Register within 60 days from the date on which the consideration of the written arguments and evidence rebutting or supporting the proposed finding begins, as provided in 25 CFR 83.10(l)(2).

Dated: October 6, 1995.

Ada E. Deer,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 95–26158 Filed 10–23–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–02–M

Power Rate Adjustment: Mission Valley Power Utility, Montana; Notice of Rate Increase

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is increasing the cost of electric power (energy) to customers of Mission Valley Power (MVP), the entity operating the power facility of the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project of the Flathead Reservation. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has been informed that the Montana Power Company (MPC), which sells electric power to MVP, has raised its wholesale power rates by approximately 2.0 percent. The MPC increase went into effect on September 5, 1995, and is based on adjustments in the Consumer Price Index pursuant to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license for MPC's Kerr Dam Hydroelectric Facility. Accordingly, the BIA is adjusting the local retail power rates charged by MVP to reflect the increased cost of purchased power.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland Area Office, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232–4169, telephone (503) 231–6702; or, General Manager, Mission Valley Power, P.O. Box 890, Polson, Montana 59860–0890. Telephone (406) 883–5361 or 1–800–823–3758 (in-State Watts).

DATES: This rate increase is effective October 24, 1995.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The authority to issue this document is vested in the Secretary of the Interior by 5 U.S.C. 301; the Act of August 7, 1946, c. 802, Section 3 (60 Stat. 895; 25 U.S.C. 385c); the Act of May 25, 1948 (62 Stat. 269); and the Act of December 23, 1981, section 112 (95 Stat. 1404). The Secretary has delegated this authority to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs pursuant to part 209 Departmental Manual, Chapter 8. 1A and Memorandum dated January 25, 1994, from Chief of Staff, Department of the Interior, to Assistant Secretaries, and Heads of Bureaus and Offices. The approximate 2.0 percent MPC increase causes the BIA to raise its retail rates to recover $28,000 which is the approximate annual financial impact of that increase. This adjustment is the result of an increase in the electric power rates charged by MPC, one of three sources of electric power marketed by MVP. The MPC increase, which went into effect on September 5, 1995, is based on adjustments in the Consumer Price Index pursuant to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license for MPC's Kerr Dam Hydroelectric Facility. The following table illustrates the financial impact of the new retail rates on each rate class:

Rate class	Present rate	New rate
Residential:		
Basic Charge	$11.00/mo. (includes 125kwh)	No change.
Energy Charge	$0.04817/kwh (over 122 kwh)	$0.04828.
#2 General:		
Basic Charge	$11.00/mo. (includes 107 kwh)	No change.
Energy Charge	$0.05604/kwh (over 107 kwh)	$0.05615.
Irrigation:		
Horsepower Charge	$11.25/HP	$11.30/HP.
Energy Charge	$0.03638/kwh	$0.03642.
Minimum Seasonal Charge	$132.00 or $6.00/HP, whichever is greater	No change.
Small & Large Commercial:		
Basic Charge	None	No change.
Monthly Minimum	$38.00	No change.
Demand Rate	$4.50/KW of billing demand	$4.51/KW.
Energy Rate	$0.04305/kwh—First 18,000 kwh	$0.04345.
	$0.03588/kwh—Over 18,000 kwh	$0.03592.
Area Lights:		
Area light installed on existing pole or structure:		
7,000 lumen unit, M.V.*	$7.00	$7.00.
20,000 lumen unit, M.V.*	$10.00	$10.00.
9,000 lumen unit, H.P.S.	$6.50	$6.50.
22,000 lumen unit, H.P.S.	$8.75	$8.75.
Area light installed with new pole:		
7,000 lumen unit, M.V.*	$8.75	$8.75.
20,000 lumen unit, M.V.*	$11.50	$11.50.
9,000 lumen unit, M.V.*	$8.25	$8.25.
22,000 lumen unit, H.P.S*	$10.50	$10.50.

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.

[FR Doc. 95–26326 Filed 10–23–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–02–P

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