Cochair and the Lt. Governor of the State of Alaska as the State Cochair. In addition, the charter provides for appointing the commissioners or directors of specified State agencies, the State directors of specified Federal land management agencies, and the heads of two Alaska Native organizations.

Administrative establishment of the Alaska Land Managers Forum is necessary and in the public interest.

Dated: November 28, 1995.

Bruce Babbitt,

Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 95-29380 Filed 12-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-10-M

## Bureau of Land Management [NM-932-4120-06; OKNM 96155]

Notice of 5-year Extension of Current Qualification of the Designated Nine (9) County "Area" of Oklahoma Federal Coal for "Category 5" Royalty Rate Reductions

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,

Interior.

**ACTION:** Notices.

**SUMMARY:** This announcement gives notice that since the lands within the nine (9) Oklahoma Counties of Atoka, Coal, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McIntosh, Muskogee, Pittsburg, and Sequoyah were designated in 1990 by the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management as a Federal Coal "Area", and that said Area was determined to be "Qualified" as eligible for "Category 5" royalty rate reductions in order to establish fair and competitive royalties, and since no basic changes in the Area coal market have occurred, the State Director of the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management has extended the Qualification of the Designated Area for "Category 5" Royalty Rate Reductions from December 17, 1995 to, and inclusive of, December 17, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Darwyn F. Pogue, Geologist/Minerals Review Appraiser, Minerals Support Team, Division of Planning, Use and Protection, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 27115, Mail Stop 93000, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502–0115, Phone (505) 438–7466.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** According to data contained in the latest available Annual Report to the Governor of Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Mining Commission, Department of Mines, the nine (9) Oklahoma Counties of Atoka, Coal, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore,

McIntosh, Muskogee, Pittsburg, and Sequoyah contain approximately 80% of the known coal resources of Oklahoma, as determined by the latest studies of the Oklahoma Geological Survey. These same nine (9) counties also contain 100% of the known Federally owned and economically recoverable coal resources in Oklahoma. The Federally owned coal resources are "acquired minerals" contained within coal deposits that were purchased from the Choctaw and Chickasaw Native American Tribes in the late 1940's. Therefore, the New Mexico Bureau of Land Management State Director in 1990 designated the aforementioned nine (9) counties as a Federal Coal area, hereinafter referred to as the "Area", for the purposes of Federal coal management under the guidelines set forth in Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Manual 3485—Reports, Royalties, and Records; in 43 CFR Part 3400—Coal Management: General; and in Subpart 3485—Reports, Royalties, and Records. BLM Manual 3485 sets forth five (5) Categories by which the holder and/or operator of a Federal Coal Lease may apply for a royalty that is less than the base royalty stated in the lease. Categories 1 through 4 refer to royalty reductions based mainly upon mining and financial criteria, or combinations thereof, that are specific to the mining operation requesting relief. Category 5, however, refers to royalty reductions granted within a designated State or Area that the BLM has concluded to have met all of the following criteria:

- 1. The Federal Government is not market dominant.
- 2. Federal royalty rates are above the current market royalty rates for non-Federal coal in the Area.
- 3. Federal coal would be bypassed or remain undeveloped due to royalty rate differentials.
- 4. The above conditions exist throughout the Area.
- 5. A royalty rate reduction under this Category is not likely to result in undue competitive advantages over neighboring areas.

Studies supplementary to those completed in 1990 that resulted in the present Area and subsequent "Category 5" reduced royalties, and continuous Area coal economic studies since 1990, have shown, and continue to show, that there have not been any basic changes in the Area coal markets that would substantiate the discontinuation of the present policy. As a result, the State Director has determined that the Qualification of the nine (9) county Area should be extended for another five (5) years, as provided by the Guidelines in BLM Manual 3485—Reports, Royalties,

and Records. This will allow operators and/or holders of Federal Coal leases within the Area the continued opportunity to obtain fair and competitive Federal royalty rates; i.e., 2% for Federal coal mined by accepted underground methods, and 4% for Federal coal mined by accepted surface methods. It will further allow for the continued economic viability of the Area.

All Oklahoma coal operators that currently hold Federal coal leases within the Area have been mailed a copy of the above notice.

Dated: November 22, 1995. Rich Whitley,

Deputy State Director, Division of Planning, Use and Protection, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office. [FR Doc. 95–29237 Filed 12–1–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4310–84–M

## [NM-030-7122-03-8546]

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

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

**ACTION:** Rescheduled public scoping meeting and extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: Due to the Federal Government shutdown, the public scoping meeting scheduled by BLM on Wednesday, November 15, 1995 in Silver City, New Mexico (Federal Register, Vol. 60, No. 205, October 24, 1995, pages 54508–54509) to discuss Cobre Mining Company's proposed Continental Mine Expansion Project was postponed. The meeting is rescheduled at the following time and location:

Time/date	Location
7 p.m., De- cember 19, 1995.	Grant County Courthouse Building, 2nd Floor Court- room, 201 North Cooper Street, Silver City, New Mexico.

**DATES:** The public comment period has been extended through January 2, 1996. Written comments should be sent to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to 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.