UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECLAMATION SCHEDULES SECOND BLUE MESA PLANNING SESSION

The second in a series of public meetings on a possible expansion of peaking power capacity at the Blue Mesa powerplant has been scheduled for April 19, 1979, Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Bill Plummer announced today. The meeting will be held from 2-5 p.m. in the Colorado-Ute Electric Association meeting room at 1505 S. Highway 550, Montrose, Colorado.

At the first meeting held February 27, the Bureau of Reclamation organized a planning team for the Blue Mesa expansion study. Team members include private citizens and personnel from Reclamation, other Federal agencies, state and local agencies, and utility companies. The team will study the possibility of adding a generating unit to the outlet works of Blue Mesa Dam. (The two existing generating units operate from penstocks, or large pipes, through the dam.) This project could provide up to 50 megawatts of additional peaking power.
Blue Mesa Dam, located on the Gunnison River between Montrose and Gunnison, was completed in 1965 as part of the Curecanti Storage Unit. The objective of the current study is to help meet growing needs for electrical power in the Colorado River Storage Project's service area. Similar studies are being conducted at other Reclamation powerplants.

The public is encouraged to attend, to give suggestions, and to provide input for this study.