Sale of sugar firm delayed

DENVER (AP)—Great Western United Corp. and the Great Western Producers Cooperative have extended Thursday's deadline for the cooperative to purchase Great Western Sugar Co. until March 31.

However, both sides said Wednesday it was not expected the March 31 deadline would be met either, although consideration would be given to yet another extension at that time.

The delays have stemmed from complications in arranging financing to purchase the Great Western subsidiary.

Great Western United's Closing of Sale of Unit To Co-Op Is Deferred

Acquisition of Sugar Company by Great Western Producers Now Unlikely Until After March 31

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

DENVER—Great Western Producers Co-operative and Great Western United Corp. agreed to extend the closing date for the purchase of the company's Great Western Sugar Co. by the co-op, originally set for yesterday.

Cooperative and company officials indicated they don't expect that the closing conditions will be satisfied by the new March 31 termination date. But they indicated they will consider an amendment to extend the date beyond March 31 if certain conditions are met by then.

The conditions include execution by the cooperative of certain agreements relating to its financing arrangements and effectiveness of the cooperative's pending registration statement.

The company said the record date for payment of dividend arrearages on its $1.88 cumulative preferred stock, as well as the timetable for proposed purchase of the $1.88 stock from the proceeds of the sale of the sugar company, would be announced when the closing date is scheduled.

Great Western United indicated that dividend arrearages would increase 47 cents a share on April 2, from $1.88 to $2.35, and that the payment after April 2 of any dividend arrearages from the proceeds of the sale would be $2.35 a share. The company also said that the increase of dividend arrearages wouldn't affect the previously announced $20-a-share proposed tender offer price for the $1.88 stock, assuming the sale is consummated.