



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASARCO ENTERS INTO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PIMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- INCLUDES FUNDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS FOR CANOA CONSERVATION PARK PROJECT

Tucson, Arizona – October 15, 2010 – ASARCO LLC (Asarco) announced today that it has reached a settlement with the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) regarding alleged violations of Pima County's air quality rules related to its operations at its Mission Mine. The agreement resolves Notices of Violation (NOVs) against Asarco primarily for blowing tailings dust and calls for a \$100,000 civil penalty to be paid within the next 30 days. In addition, Asarco has agreed to fund three Supplemental Environmental Projects totaling \$350,000 related to the Canoa Conservation Park project in Green Valley, Arizona.

Commenting on the settlement, Thomas L. Aldrich, Vice President of Environmental Affairs said, "We believe that this cooperatively developed agreement between Asarco and PDEQ establishes a positive basis for the company to continue to work together with Pima County. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Canoa Ranch Community Trust/Oversight Committee on implementing the environmental projects."

"Mission takes its compliance obligations very seriously," stated Richard Rhoades, Mission's General Manager. "We responded diligently to the situation and are confident that the issues that caused the incidents have been resolved," he added.

Asarco presented PDEQ with a draft of a berm building plan designed to minimize recurrences of blowing dust. The plan outlines how tailings dam berm construction will be modified and sets forth a series of dust control measures that will be utilized.

On three of the days for which NOVs were issued regarding dust, wind speeds at the mine exceeded 25 miles per hour. For the NOV which occurred on December 22, 2009, extremely high wind conditions prevailed, creating dust storms across the State that, among other things, caused major damage and traffic fatalities on Interstate 10 in the Casa Grande area.

Asarco temporarily stationed an environmental project manager at the Rancho Resort Club House near the mine to work with residents who were affected by the blowing dust incidents. That cleanup work was completed last summer.

Asarco is an integrated primary copper producer with approximately 2500 employees. In addition to its Mission Mine, the Company operates a smelter, two other mines, associated mills and solvent extraction/electrowinning plants in Arizona, and a refinery in Amarillo, Texas, that produces copper cathode, rod and cake, precious metals and by-products.

For more information, visit <http://www.asarco.com>

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