



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ASARCO ANNOUNCES MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS**

TUCSON, AZ – ASARCO LLC announced today the appointment of new managers in the first quarter of 2007 for the Ray Mine and Concentrator, the SX-EW operation at the Silver Bell Mine, the Mission Mine, and Corporate Financial Managers.

### **Russell Smith, C.P.A., Financial Controller**

Mr. Smith brings over fifteen years of finance and multi-industry expertise in regulated utilities, energy, telecom, and construction experience to his position. Most recently Mr. Smith worked with Alaska Power & Telephone Company in Port Townsend, AK. He holds a B.S. in Accounting from Central Washington University as well as his C.P.A. certificate and license. Mr. Smith will primarily be responsible for the general accounting function, which includes financial statements and reports, as well as accounting for the non-operating units. He works in the Tucson office.

### **Chuck Watson, CPA, Director Financial Projects**

Mr. Watson brings eight years of financial experience to his position and most recently came from Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. Mr. Watson holds a B.S. in Accounting from Arizona State University and an M.B.A. from Oklahoma State University as well as his C.P.A. certificate and license. He will primarily be responsible for developing Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, as well as various accounting and internal controls. Mr. Watson works in the Tucson office.

### **Steve Winkelmann, Mine Manager Ray Mine**

Mr. Winkelmann brings over twenty years of experience in the mining industry to his position, including Mine Manager for Iluka Resources, Vice President and General Manager of Central Stone Company and positions of increasing responsibility over a thirteen year career with Newmont Mining Corporation. Mr. Winkelmann holds a B.S. in Mining Engineering from Colorado School of Mines. He works in the Ray Complex and will be supervising mine operations and maintenance.

### **Wendy Gort, SX-EW Manager Silver Bell Mine**

Ms. Gort brings twenty-five years of experience in the SX-EW field to her position, working for companies such as URS Corporation, Phelps Dodge Morenci Inc., Phelps Dodge Sierrita Corp., and BHP Copper. She is a published author of several mining industry books and is the co-inventor of several processes involved in making copper metal powder with four patents. Ms. Gort holds a B.S. in Metallurgical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines with a Minor in Public Affairs for Engineers. She works at the Silver Bell Mine and will be supervising all of the SX-EW operations, leaching operations, maintenance crews and the electric shop.

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**Michael Moran, Human Resource Manager – Mission Mine**

Mr. Moran brings over twenty-five years of diversified Fortune 500 Human Resources experience to his position, most recently from Phelps Dodge Mining Company in Morenci, AZ. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from St. Michael's College in Vermont and an M.A. in Labor and Industrial Relations from St. Francis College in Pennsylvania. Mr. Moran will manage and administer the policies, procedures and day-to-day human resource operations for the Mission and Silver Bell mines. He is also the primary contact for labor management and employee relations and staffing, and recruiting for the hourly and salaried work force. He works at the Mission Mine.

**Kent Billhartz, Electrical Manager – Mission Mine**

Mr. Billhartz brings almost thirty years of experience in electrical maintenance, maintenance management, and preventive and predictive maintenance to his position and is most recently from U.S. Cotton in Albuquerque, N.M. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Southern Illinois University in Illinois. Mr. Billhartz will manage the entire electrical and instrumentation departments at the Mission Mine.

**David Brown, Commercial Credit Manager**

Mr. Brown brings over twenty years of experience in credit management from both the U.S. and European petroleum industries and is transitioning to the metals industry. He has worked for such companies as Amcor Sunclipse, ConocoPhillips, Murco Petroleum Ltd. and Kuwait Petroleum (GB) Ltd. Mr. Brown is responsible for managing accounts receivable exposure and cash receipts with respect to Asarco's customers. He holds a B.A. in Management Studies with Honors from the University of Nottingham, UK. Mr. Brown works in the Tucson office.

**John Key, E.I.T. – General Metallurgical Supervisor – Ray Concentrator**

Mr. Key brings five years of experience to his position. Mr. Key holds a B.S. in Metallurgical Engineering with an emphasis in mineral processing from the University of Missouri - Rolla, as well as an M.S. in Engineering Management with an emphasis in project management, statistical process control and total quality management from the University of Missouri - Rolla. He most recently comes from Metropolitan Engineering in Barnhart, MO. Mr. Key is responsible for the labs, process improvements, automation and controls at the Ray Concentrator.

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