

# *Silver Bell Mining, L.L.C.*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SILVER BELL SETTLES TRI REPORTING VIOLATIONS**

MARANA, AZ – December 5, 2007 – Silver Bell Mining LLC (Silver Bell) has settled with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failure to report its use of cobalt for the years 2001-2003. Silver Bell worked cooperatively with EPA to settle the matter for \$28,950. Silver Bell did not release cobalt to the environment.

In the course of preparing Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reports in 2005, Silver Bell discovered a calculation error for the use of 8% cobalt sulfate solution in the electrowinning process at Silver Bell. As there were no releases to the environment, correcting the error meant that a TRI Form A had to be filed.

Silver Bell promptly and voluntarily reported the omission to EPA and filed reports for all previous years. Silver Bell has taken steps to ensure that its subsequent TRI reports are complete and accurate.

“There were no releases to the environment in any of those years and we promptly submitted reports once the error was discovered,” said Tom Phillips, Silver Bell’s General Manager. “Even if there had been a release, cobalt sulfate solution would not have posed an inhalation or human health risk,” he added.

Silver Bell Mining LLC is located in Marana, AZ and the operations consist of open-pit mining, leach, solvent-extraction and electrowinning. For more information, visit: [http://www.asarco.com/silverbell\\_T.html](http://www.asarco.com/silverbell_T.html).