



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON EL PASO PLANT

Asarco LLC's El Paso Plant is still considered a valuable asset and its fate will be determined as we continue to go through the necessary steps to emerge from bankruptcy. There are four copper smelters in the U.S.; the El Paso Plant is the only permitted copper smelter in the United States not currently operating

Asarco LLC will continue to work diligently to meet the conditions of our operating permit in order to give us the opportunity to reopen. A report is due to the TCEQ on July 1. That report will include the results of a process engineer's extensive investigation of our pollution control equipment, and the investment and timeline necessary to make El Paso a world class copper smelter.

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