



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 30, 2006
Contact: Debbie Nadler (602) 977-6593

ASARCO TO RESTART MOLYBDENUM PLANT AT MISSION COMPLEX

TUCSON, AZ – ASARCO LLC announced today that it will begin producing molybdenum again at its Mission Complex in Sahurita, AZ in December 2006. Molybdenum, which occurs naturally in the Mission ore body, is produced as a byproduct of the copper operation. It is used to make stainless and other alloy steel.

Asarco expects to produce approximately 450,000 pounds of molybdenum in 2007.

“Restarting the molybdenum circuit will allow Asarco to better utilize its mineral resources and benefit from favorable market conditions,” stated Joseph Lapinsky, President and Chief Executive Officer of Asarco. The company last produced molybdenum in 1996 but stopped because of low market price and absence of the mineral in the ore then being mined.

Operation of the molybdenum circuit at Mission is covered by the plant’s existing air quality permit as an alternate operating scenario.

ASARCO LLC is a Tucson-based integrated copper mining, smelting and refining company.

#