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ASARCO TO BEGIN SMELTER PROJECT AT HAYDEN

Tucson, AZ – ASARCO LLC announced today that it has reached agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding modifications to its smelter in Hayden Arizona. The planned Converter Retrofit Project will improve sulfur capture and control efficiency from 95% to 99% at a cost in excess of \$128 million, and will result in the Hayden Smelter being among the cleanest in the world.

“ASARCO is committed to ensuring that the environment in Hayden is clean and safe, and we are thrilled that we’ve reached an agreement with EPA to move forward with the modifications to the smelter,” said Jack Garrity, Technical Services Manager at the Hayden Smelter. “We believe we can accomplish the project safely and in an environmentally sound fashion while continuing to operate the smelter at normal capacity.” The project will take three years to complete.

In addition to the Converter Retrofit Project, ASARCO will implement several new control measures within the facility to reduce fugitive dust emissions, and will replace one of the facility’s diesel locomotives with a low-emissions model. Also per the terms of the settlement agreement with EPA (Consent Decree), the Company will assist with lead-based paint abatement in the Hayden area, and will pave a section of Camino Rio and thus significantly reduce traffic-caused dust emissions.

Discussions between ASARCO and EPA on an agreement to resolve regulatory issues at the facility and to allow the converter retrofit project to proceed have been ongoing for almost 4 years.

“We believe this will protect our community’s economic future and ensure that our environment is clean and safe,” said Manuel Ramos, President and Chief Operating Officer of ASARCO LLC.

ASARCO LLC is a subsidiary company of Grupo Mexico with approximately 2,600 employees. The Company is an integrated copper mining, smelting and refining company headquartered in Tucson, Arizona and operates mines, mills and a smelter near Tucson and a refinery in Amarillo, Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.asarco.com>