



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ASARCO SETTLES WITH ADEQ OVER TAILINGS SPILL**

TUCSON, AZ-- April 12, 2010-- ASARCO LLC (Asarco) has agreed to a settlement with the State of Arizona to resolve allegations of a discharge of tailings in February 2007 at Asarco's Hayden Operations. Asarco worked cooperatively with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Attorney General's Office to negotiate a settlement that calls for Asarco to pay a \$20,000 civil penalty.

A leak from a coupling in a tailings pipeline occurred on February 4, 2007 that spilled tailings onto the banks of the Gila River, resulting in a small amount of tailings entering the river. Tailings are the ground rock that remains after the copper minerals have been extracted from the ore. Asarco immediately shut down the pipeline, voluntarily reported the incident to state and federal agencies and downstream water users and promptly cleaned up the spilled tailings. Furthermore, Asarco installed a pipeline with design and engineering improvements, rather than repair or replace the leaking coupling, at a cost of approximately \$1.7 million.

"Asarco takes its compliance obligations very seriously," stated Manuel Ramos, President and Chief Operating Officer of Asarco. "We responded diligently to the incident and took effective measures to prevent recurrence," Joe Wilhelm, Ray Complex-Hayden Operations General Manager added.

Asarco is an integrated primary copper producer with approximately 2500 employees. Its Hayden Operations include a concentrator and INCO Flash smelter that produces anode copper, which is shipped to its refinery in Amarillo, Texas for further refining. The smelter also produces commercial grade sulfuric acid, which is utilized in Asarco's leaching operations at its Ray and Silver Bell mines. For more information, visit <http://www.asarco.com/hayden>.

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