



NEWS

ASARCO Incorporated
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASARCO DECLARES DIVIDEND

NEW YORK, N.Y., January 27, 1999 -- The Board of Directors of ASARCO Incorporated (NYSE:AR) today declared a quarterly dividend on Asarco's common stock of five cents per share payable March 9, 1999 to stockholders of record at the close of business on February 10, 1999.

In making the announcement, Richard de J. Osborne, Chairman of the Board of Asarco, said, "The Board lowered the dividend from the 10 cents to five cents as a result of lower copper prices and their impact on earnings.

"In a cyclical business such as ours the dividend rate over time must relate to the Company's earnings. We aggressively increased the dividend when earnings warranted a higher rate and believe we should now set the dividend at a lower level," he said.

In 1993 and 1994 and the first quarter of 1995, Asarco paid a dividend of 10 cents per share. The dividend was increased, when copper prices and earnings improved, to 20 cents per share in the second quarter of 1995 and was maintained at that level until last quarter.

ASARCO Incorporated is one of the world's leading integrated producers of copper, as well as a producer of specialty chemicals, aggregates and other metals.

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