

# UNITED STEELWORKERS

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APR 11 1975

April 9, 1975

Mr. Everett Foster, Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency  
410 W. Harrison St.  
Seattle, Washington 98119

Dear Sir,

We are sending this letter to voice our total and emphatic opposition to the Application for Variance by the American Smelting and Refining Company in regards to your regulations on arsenic emissions. The letter is sent as per a unanimous request of our members in attendance at our April 8, 1975, Union meeting.

We do not feel it necessary to enumerate on the reasons for our position in light of the recent studies done by NIOSH, Dow chemical, Allied chemical, etc; showing a direct link between arsenic exposure and respiratory and lymphatic cancer. Our International Union is presently testifying in Washington, D.C. in support of an OSHA proposal to limit industrial exposure to arsenic. The proposed standard, if promulgated, would require the Company to limit worker exposure to, for all practical purposes, a non-detectable level. At present, much of the community adjacent to ASARCO's Tacoma Plant could not meet the proposed OSHA standards.

We feel that it would be more than just negligent to subject citizens to this type of arsenic exposure, it would be criminal. ASARCO is capable of complying with the present regulations, but as always they have put their own economic consideration ahead of the health and well being of the community. Having dealt with ASARCO management for a number of years in bargaining for better working conditions, few know better than us the lack of compassion and concern they are capable of. To allow this variance would put your agency in the same league.

Sincerely,

*Bennie C. Endof Horn*  
Bennie C. Endof Horn  
USWA-Local 25, President