

ASARCO is grateful and pleased with the decision of the Pollution Control Hearings Board. The company considers it has been given a fair opportunity to install pollution control facilities which will substantially improve the ambient air and permit the Tacoma Smelter to meet the air quality standards of both the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency.

At the same time, the decision avoids the adverse economic consequences on the company's employees and the Puget Sound area which would follow from a forced shut-down of the Tacoma Smelter.

The decision of the Hearings Board permits the company to go ahead with its program of pollution control and to continue its work with the development of new technology to facilitate additional air quality control. Similarly, the order will allow time for the public authorities to gain experience so that the standards ultimately to be enforced will be those standards which are both necessary and desirable to assure appropriate air quality for the Puget Sound area.

Commenting on the decision of the Hearings Board, Charles F. Barber, Chairman of the Board of ASARCO, said:

"I want to assure the people of the Puget Sound area that ASARCO is committed to a positive five-year program of improving air quality. We know that ASARCO's future in the non-ferrous smelting business depends on our success in meeting in a responsible manner public concern over the environment. As soon as the Puget Sound Agency issues the necessary order we will proceed with construction of a new facility for recovery of 51% of all sulfur dioxide in the smelter emissions."