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ONRR Issues \$802,000 Civil Penalty to Asarco LLC *Company cited for 'knowing or willful' failure to permit an audit*

DENVER – The Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) announced today that it has assessed Asarco LLC an \$802,000 civil penalty for “knowing or willful failure” to permit an audit of the company’s copper production from the Mission Mine, located on American Indian lands in southern Arizona.

“The civil penalty stems from Asarco’s refusal to comply with pertinent audit requests,” said ONRR Director Greg Gould. “That action prevented auditors from performing substantive audit procedures for the Mission Mine for more than a year.”

According to Gould, “Asarco’s refusal to provide requested records prevented timely completion of ONRR’s audit and warranted a civil penalty for knowing or willful failure to permit an audit.” The \$802,000 civil penalty covers the period from Jan. 6, 2012, through when Asarco provided the information to fulfill the data request and enabled the audit to proceed.

Asarco, a U.S. subsidiary of Grupo Mexico, is headquartered in Arizona. The company may request a hearing on the penalty.

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, part of the Department’s Office of Policy, Management and Budget, is responsible for collecting and disbursing revenues from energy production that occurs onshore on federal and American Indian lands, and offshore in the Outer Continental Shelf. During Fiscal Year 2012, the agency disbursed more than \$12.15 billion to states, American Indian Tribes and individual Indian mineral owners, and to various Federal accounts, including the U.S. Treasury, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Reclamation Fund.

ONRR