

Mr. Michael W. Rohrbach, Chair  
Cochise County Learning Advisory Council  
P.O. Box Drawer 104  
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

Dear Mr. Rohrbach:

Thanks for your email of March 17, 2003, to Marianne Lamont Horinko, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In your email, you suggested using funds from a recent settlement agreement with ASARCO to encourage reuse, de-manufacturing and smelting of used computers. I applaud your interest in this important environmental issue, and I am very glad to see that you are pursuing the goals of fostering reuse and recycling of electronics, a goal which I share wholeheartedly.

My understanding of the terms of the settlement agreement in question is that ASARCO has created a trust fund to be administered by an independent trustee to fund cleanup actions at sites where ASARCO is alleged to be a liable party under various federal and state environmental statutes. These funds will be used to address human health and environmental risks created by ASARCO and its subsidiaries or predecessors. Because the use of these funds is limited to specific purposes and is under the control of an independent trustee, we have no ability to use the settlement funds for other purposes.

At the same time, I encourage you to continue your work with ASARCO and EPA's Region 9 on your important project. If you are interested in learning about EPA's electronics recycling activities, I encourage you to contact Clare Lindsay of my staff at (703) 308-7266.

Thank you for your interest in the reuse and recycling of electronics. If you have any further questions on the specifics of the ASARCO settlement, please contact Shahid Mahmud of the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response at (703) 603-8789 or Joseph Tieger of the Office of Site Remediation Enforcement at (202) 564-4276.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Springer, Director  
Office of Solid Waste

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