

**\*\*\* Sierra Club \*\*\* Environmental Integrity Project \*\*\* Public Citizen – Texas Office \*\***

**Hand Delivery**

June 17, 2008

Honorable Michael Mukasey  
U.S. Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear General Mukasey:

Two weeks ago, we wrote to you urging the U.S. Department of Justice to proceed with caution before turning over the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) – which has a record of one of the worst polluters in the country – to a new corporate parent with a weak environmental record. It is our view that strong leadership and a commitment to the highest environmental standards will be critically important to ending ASARCO's legacy of pollution.

For this reason, we are concerned by reports that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is supporting the sale of Asarco to Sterlite Industries Ltd., a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources PLC without undertaking an assessment of the environmental record of Vedanta and other bidders. Most troubling are the published reports of a DOJ representative telling the court that Vedanta's environmental record based on lower Indian environment standards should not be a "dispositive disqualifying factor."

We respectfully disagree and renew our call to the Department of Justice to immediately launch a full scale review of the environmental record of all bidders. We remain firm in our view that the future parent of ASARCO must be an entity that can usher in a much more constructive approach to environmental concerns.

Signed,

Sierra Club  
San Francisco, CA.

Environmental Integrity Project  
Washington, D.C.

Public Citizen – Texas Office  
Austin, TX.

cc:

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