

News Release



U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
Release Number: 08-570-DEN

For Immediate Release
April 25, 2008
Contact: Amy Louviere Matthew Faraci
Phone: 202-693-9423 202-693-9406

Mine Safety and Health Administration fines Troy Mine \$417,400 *Montana mine operator cited for flagrant violations involving ground control*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has assessed \$417,400 in fines against Genesis Inc.’s, Troy Mine in Lincoln County, Mont., for four violations relating to inadequate ground support. The violations were discovered during an inspection of the mine in January, just six months after the fatality of a mine mechanic who was killed when a fall of ground trapped him in the cab of his truck.

“A miner lost his life because of inadequately supported ground conditions last year, and MSHA inspectors discovered similar conditions at the mine six months later,” said Richard E. Stickler, acting assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. “Other miners could have been seriously injured or lost their lives. Mine operators who repeatedly ignore safety regulations will be held accountable.”

MSHA inspectors issued the four flagrant citations for Troy Mine’s failure to ensure adequate ground support in working areas of the mine. At several locations underground, inspectors found potentially hazardous conditions that could have resulted in serious injury or death to miners. The violations, cited during a federally mandated safety and health inspection, were issued as “significant and substantial,” which is defined as a violation reasonably likely to result in a serious injury or illness.

A flagrant violation is defined as a reckless or repeated failure to make reasonable efforts to eliminate a known violation of a mandatory safety and health standard that substantially and proximately caused, or reasonably could have been expected to cause, death or serious bodily injury. Under the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, a civil penalty of up to \$220,000 may be assessed for each flagrant violation.

###

U.S. Department of Labor releases are accessible on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape or disc) from the COAST office upon request. Please specify which news release when placing your request at 202-693-7828 or TTY 202-693-7755. The Labor Department is committed to providing America’s employers and employees with easy access to understandable information on how to comply with its laws and regulations. For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/compliance.