

## MINE: The site has been cited four times since 2009

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continue to find and cite serious violations at mines we have targeted during previous impact inspections," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "We will continue to level this enforcement tool until repeat offenders demonstrate they take their responsibilities for the safety and health of miners seriously."

The agency said the inspections began "in force" in April 2010 after

the explosion at the Upper Big Branch coal mine in West Virginia that year that killed 29 miners. The inspections target mines that have poor compliance history or concerns, the agency said.

But a representative for Wyo-Ben said he's not sure why the Lucerne Mill was targeted.

The site has a good safety record with no serious accidents or injuries and the April inspections seemed like one of the standard twice-a-year inspections, said Rick Mag-

stadt, the company's vice president of manufacturing.

"To us it was an ordinary inspection," he said. "I have no idea why we would be targeted for an impact inspection, so I find it unusual that it would be characterized as an impact inspection."

Prior to this year, the Lucerne Mill had been cited four times since the site began operation in 2009, for a penalty total of \$646, according to MSHA records.

Including the six cita-

tions from the April inspection, the site has received seven citations in 2011 for a penalty total of \$848.

Wyo-Ben owns three bentonite facilities in Wyoming: the Lucerne Mill, the Stucco Mine/Mill near Greybull and Sage Creek Mill outside of Lovell.

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## Wyo-Ben Questions Mine Citations (continued)

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