

OWENSBORO

Judge dismisses 4 counts against Muhlenberg mine

A federal judge has dismissed four counts of an indictment against the company that operates a Muhlenberg County coal mine, midway through trial.

U.S. District Judge Joseph H. McKinley Jr. dismissed the four counts against KenAmerican Resources Inc. yesterday after federal prosecutors completed the government's case against the company and four employees at the Paradise No. 9 mine, said Clyde Bennett II, lead counsel for KenAmerican.

The company and the employees still face charges involving alleged violations of federal mine-safety laws aimed at controlling levels of coal dust that can cause black lung disease.

KenAmerican and three employees are charged with conspiring to violate federal mine-safety laws. The trial is expected to last several more days.