

Penalty payment slashed in Bartlett explosion

**ATCHISON, Kan. (AP) — The federal government has sharply reduced the fines facing a Kansas City-based company after a grain elevator explosion killed six people and injured two others in Atchison.**

**A pending settlement would require Bartlett Grain Co. to pay \$182,000 in fines, safety audits and improvements at its 20 grain handling facilities in six states.**

**The Occupational Safety and Health Administration had proposed \$406,000 in fines after the October 2011 explosion.**

**The Kansas City Star [reports](#) the agreement must still be approved by an administrative law judge.**

**Kansas investigators previously determined the grain dust explosion was accidental. Federal investigators have declined to file any criminal charges.**

**OSHA said previously that the deaths could have been prevented had operators addressed known industry hazards.**

Associated Press