



EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2.7.05
HB HB 121

208 N. Montana Ave., Suite 104
Helena, MT 59601
Telephone: 406-449-9819
Facsimile: 406-449-8331
www.northwesternenergy.com

January 24, 2005

Representative David Gallik
House of Representatives
Capitol Station
Helena MT 59620

Dear Rep. Gallik:

At the hearing last week on H.B. 121, you asked whether NorthWestern Energy has experienced an increase in safety incidents as a result of net metering inter-connections.

I asked our safety director to survey his department; he responds that "To date, no one knows of any incidents [at NorthWestern] that have occurred as a result of net metering." He stressed that "proper safety features must be installed and operable in all conditions" and consistent application of such measures should minimize incidents.

I hope this has been responsive to your question.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Pichette
Director, Government Relations/Montana