Project profile

Granite County

Granite County, Montana

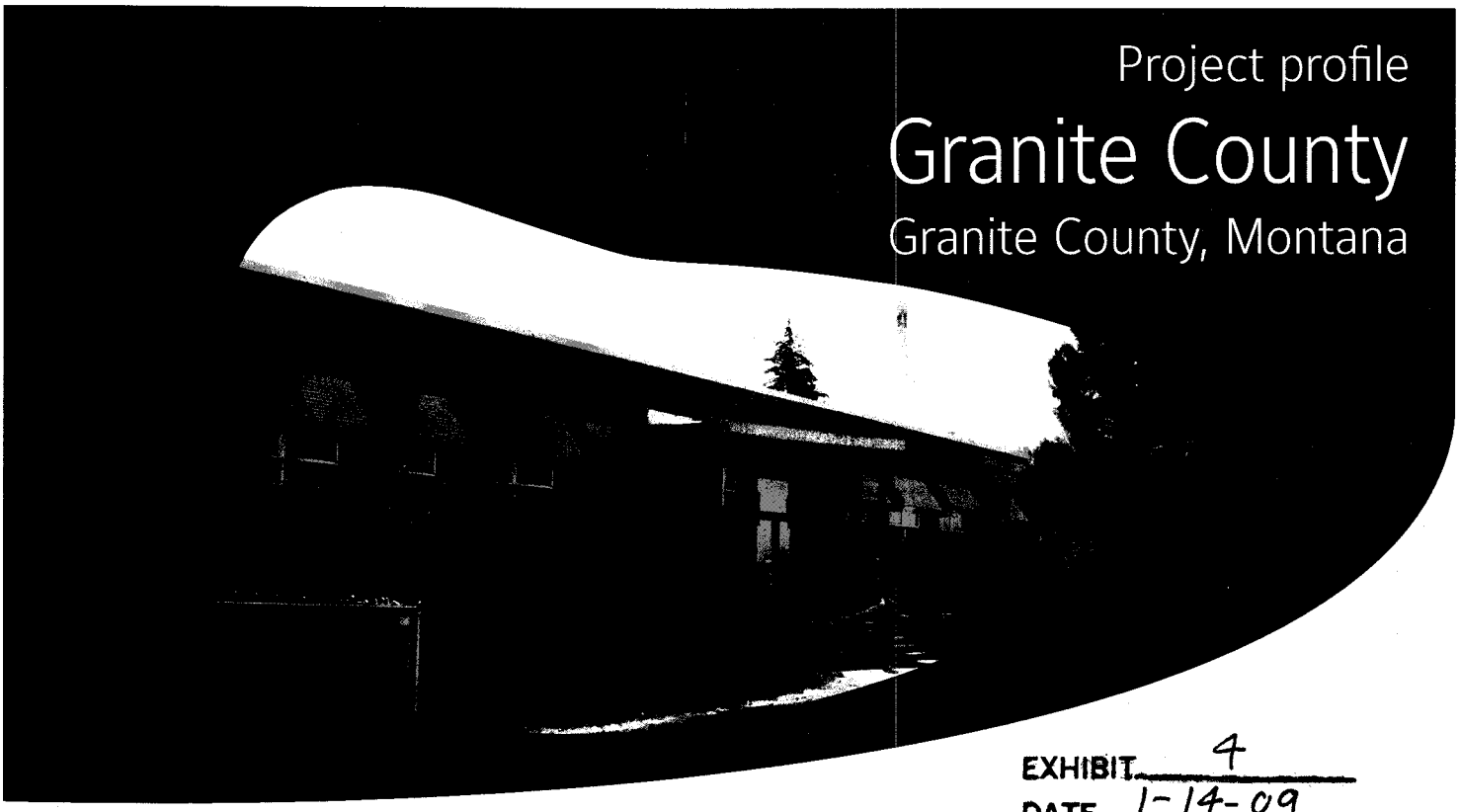

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1-14-09
HB 98

Facing a growing problem

Perched a mile high in the Rocky Mountains of southwestern Montana, Granite County was home to a booming silver mining industry in the late 1800's. Today, historic ghost towns, rugged mountain landscapes and year-round outdoor activities bring thousands of visitors to an area once voted one of the prettiest painted places in America.

The county's scenic beauty has also drawn a steady stream of new residents, particularly retirees attracted by the area's relatively reasonable property rates. But continual growth posed a serious problem for Granite County commissioners: a hospital and nursing home that were barely keeping up with the health care needs of the expanding population.

Savings pay for efficiency improvements

With an aging boiler supplying heat to the Granite County Medical Center and no backup in case of an equipment failure, forward-thinking members of the Granite County Medical Center Advisory Board knew they would have to make improvements or perhaps face closing the hospital and nursing home under pressure from the State of Montana.

Johnson Controls devised a solution for Granite County that not only resolved the heating problems, but also upgraded lighting, air conditioning and facility management systems in the Medical Center and the nearby Drummond Health Clinic.

The roughly half-million-dollar project was funded through a performance contract, enabling Granite County to pay for the new equipment with more than $22,000 in annual savings from lower utility bills and more efficient operations.

A sunny solution

Demonstrating the "can do" attitude with which they approached the entire project, the Granite County Medical Center Advisory Board also focused on solving one particular problem at the Medical Center: in the summer months, abundant sunshine caused offices and waiting rooms on the sunny side of the building to become uncomfortably warm.

Johnson Controls installed low E window film on the west side of the building to block the warming rays of the late afternoon summer sun. The result: a cooler facility that keeps staff, patients, residents and visitors much more comfortable.

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