Project profile

Ravalli County

Ravalli County, Montana

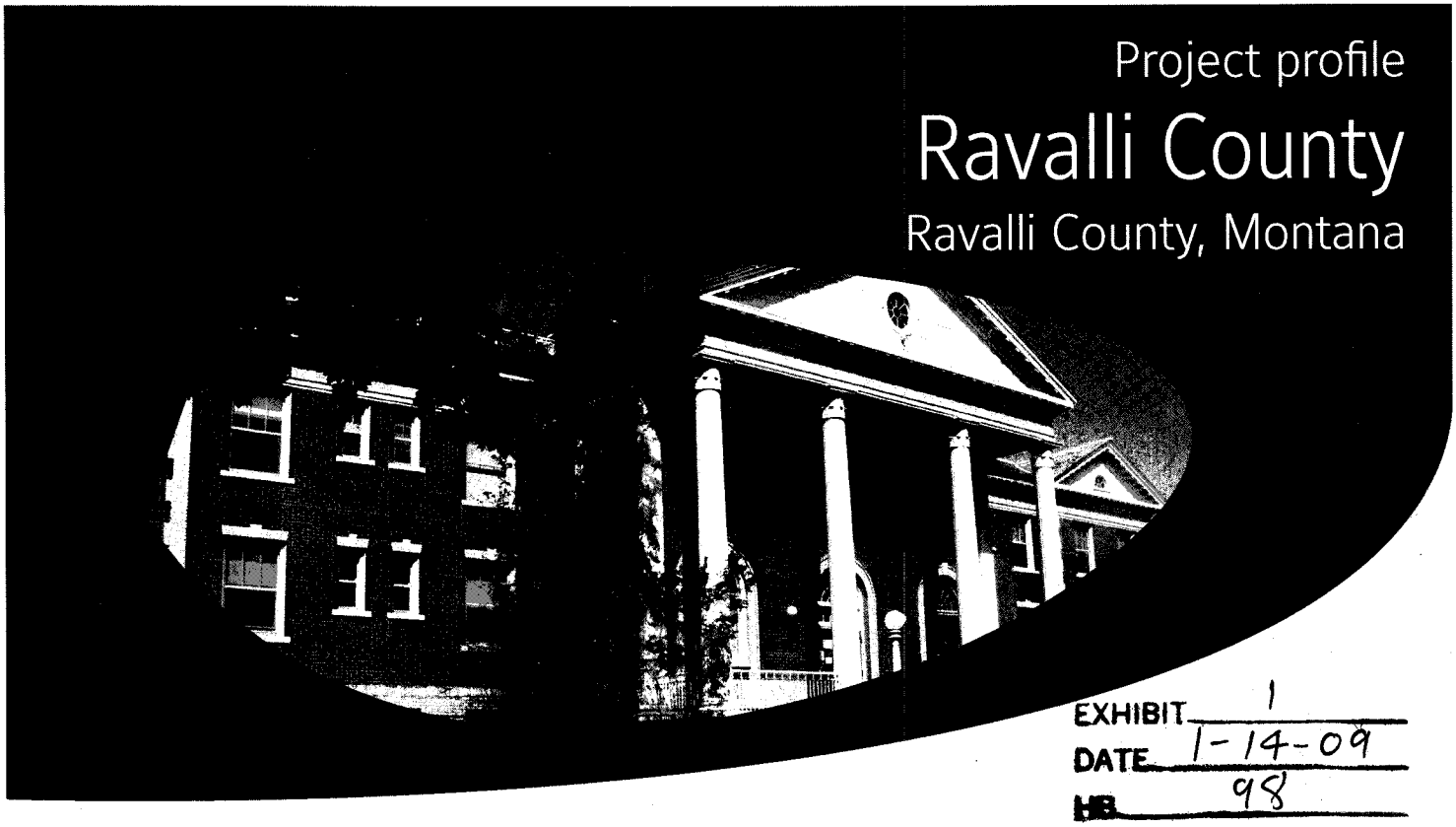

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-14-09
HB 98

Better buildings and better stewardship of tax dollars

Nestled in the beautifully scenic Bitterroot Valley of southwestern Montana, Ravalli County is home to more than 40,000, and one of the fastest growing counties in the state. The constant influx of new residents and tourists has put additional strain on public facilities that already were overtaxed. Faced with rising costs to maintain aging heating, air conditioning and other equipment in a number of county buildings, Ravalli County commissioners decided to take a longer view of the problem and find an answer that coupled increased energy efficiency with lower cost of ownership. The county turned to Johnson Controls for a solution that improved public facilities, reduced energy usage and made the best use of taxpayer dollars.

Improvements that pay for themselves

In roughly eight months, Johnson Controls made more than $2 million in upgrades to lighting, heating, air conditioning and facility management systems in five Ravalli County buildings: the Justice Center, Jail and Detention Center, Administration Building, Youth Court and the historic County Museum.

The entire project was funded through a performance contract that pays for the equipment upgrades with more than $100,000 in annual savings on energy bills and from improvements in the efficiency of county operations.

In addition to cost savings, the new highly efficient and environmentally friendly lighting, heating and cooling systems will cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other harmful substances by nearly 2 million lbs. per year. That's the equivalent of planting more than 1,700 acres of trees or removing the emissions of 260 cars from Ravalli County roads.

A very cool solution

Reflective of their hands-on, proactive approach to the project, Ravalli County commissioners were particularly concerned about a problem that had become a "hot topic" in the Administration Building. The air conditioning systems in the building lacked sufficient capacity to keep the building cool on hot summer days. The result: an unpleasant environment for the county staffers who worked in the building and the citizens who used it.

Thanks to upgrades to the air conditioning systems, the building will be noticeably cooler during hot weather and, as a result, employees will be happier and more productive.

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