

Montgomery County Conference Center and Hotel

Rockville, MD



Project Description: The Montgomery County Conference Center and Hotel is part of the White Flint Conference Center complex located adjacent to the White Flint Metrorail station in Rockville. Column loads for the 33,000 square-foot conference center range from 100 to 800 kips. Maximum column loads for the 225-room Marriott Hotel are approximately 1,700 kips. Soil conditions at the site consist of residual silts with blow counts at the foundation level as low as 6 blows per foot (bpf). The original foundation design called for spread footings designed for 3 kips per square foot (ksf) for the conference center and drilled shafts or piles for the hotel. The geotechnical engineer also provided a Geopier alternate recommendation consisting of spread footings designed for 7 ksf supported by Geopier elements. The Geopier alternative provided significant foundation cost savings over the 60- to 70-foot deep drilled shaft and pile options for the hotel and additional savings over the 3 ksf spread footing design for the conference center. A total of 947 Geopier elements were installed in March, 2003. The conference center and hotel are scheduled to open in November, 2004.

THE GEOPIER ADVANTAGE

- Saved time and money compared to drilled shaft, pile, and spread footing options
- Allowed all columns to be supported on spread footings designed for 7 ksf
- Simplified the structural design and construction sequencing

General Contractor: HITT Contracting, Inc., Fairfax, Virginia

Architect: RTKL Associates, Washington, DC

Structural Engineer: KTLH Engineers, P.C., Washington, DC

Geotechnical Engineer: The Robert B. Balter Co., Owings Mills, MD