

Project finishes ahead of schedule despite geotechnical challenges



Distribution Center

Little Rock, Arkansas

CHALLENGE

When Geopier® took on building a new, one million square foot distribution center for one of the world's largest retailers, the project came with permitting delays that necessitated a change in the building's footprint and design. In addition, there were several geotechnical issues:

- **Liquefaction risk:** The site faced seismic-induced settlement risks due to its location near the New Madrid Seismic Zone.
- **Excessive settlement:** The design, which called for 4-15 feet of new fill, raised concerns about differential and total settlement.
- **Building loads:** A solution was needed to remediate the inability of native soils to support the heavy loads introduced by the immense footprint.

GEOPIER® SOLUTION

The Geopier® Impact® system—a displacement-style rammed aggregate pier method that provides excellent settlement control and higher bearing capacities for sites with loose sands, silts, and soft clays—was used to stabilize the ground.

The Impact system offers:

- Remediation for caving soils
- Rapid installation (for shorter lead times)
- 20-50% savings over deep foundations and over-excavation
- No spoils or haul-off costs

GEOPIER®
A Division of CMC

PROJECT TEAM

Owner
Global Retailer
General Contractor
Alston Construction
Licensee
Peterson Contractors, Inc.

Record-Setting Results

Despite consistently heavy rains, **Geopier finished the installation of over 12,000 piers in 53 days—nearly a week ahead of schedule.** With up to four crews working simultaneously, **the project hit record-setting peak production rates of 300-500 piers per day.** Most important, the solution allowed other teams to begin work as planned, which ultimately saved a week's worth of time and money on the overall project.

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