



Empire Helical Piles Chosen to Support Solar Array on University of Michigan Campus

Fall 2014



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Project Name & Location:	Solar Array - University of Michigan Campus
Project Date:	Fall 2014
Project Type:	Solar Array Foundation
Helical Pile Installation Contractor:	J Ranck Electric , Mt. Pleasant, MI
Engineering Consultants:	NOVA Consultants , Novi, MI
Helical Piles Specifications:	(250) Model EP450 4.50" dia. x 0.290" Wall Round Shaft Helical Piles with Helix Bearing Plates, Galvanized
Soils & Embedment Depth:	Sand and Clay. 12 ft. Embedment Depth
Project Timeline:	(20) Working Days
Helical Pile Manufacturer:	Empire Piers - Winfield, MO

Project Overview

NOVA Consultants, Inc. a Michigan-based engineering, environmental and energy service consulting firm specializing in civil, structural, and photovoltaic engineering, was awarded the contract to construct a solar ground mount system on a challenging 2.45 acre hillside on the north side of campus.



J Ranck Electric was selected as the certified installer of the helical piles solar ground mount system supplied by Empire Piers. The location of the project was on the north side of campus with a large incline that made the install and pile survey a challenge. The empire EP450 model 4.50" dia. x 0.290" wall x 16' length round shaft helical piles were used for the ground mount with a distance of 10 feet between piles. An installation depth of 12 feet was obtained through out to support the uplift and lateral load concerns and a 4 foot section exposed above ground for panel installation. There were 250 total piles used on the project to support the 1,794 solar panels.



The university was thrilled with the overall project as everything ran smoothly and on time. The panels are expected to produce approximately 240 kilowatts of solar power each week.



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