

TMT Management Approach to Pile Driving

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TMT Management is a Portland-based developer that regularly uses an alternative method to pile driving for large-scale construction projects. For its Park Avenue West (near completion) and Fox Tower (1997) projects, TMT and contractor Hoffman Construction used a drilling method and concrete slurry backfill as an alternative to using a hammer drop or hydraulic pile driving.

President & CEO Vanessa Sturgeon explains that Tom Moyer, founder of TMT, instructed his construction team years ago that they would not be pile driving in downtown Portland, in order to address concerns about negative impacts to residents and wildlife.

Sturgeon reports that the drilling method used by TMT/Hoffman builds a steadier foundation than traditional pile driving. She added that the method her company used for Park Avenue West and Fox Tower may not be a reliable alternative for other companies in all instances, depending on geotechnical considerations and soil conditions, which typically constrains companies to the use of hammer drop pile driving methods.