CASE STUDY

Tensar®

PROJECT
John Paul Jones Arena

LOCATION
Charlottesville, VA

OWNERS
University of Virginia

PRODUCTS
Geopier Rammed Aggregate Piers
SierraScape Wire-faced Wall

CONTRACTOR
Faulconer Construction Co.

ENGINEER
Schnabel Engineering

INSTALLATION DATE
Spring 2003 – June 2006

PROJECT DETAILS
In the spring of 2003, the University of Virginia began work on the John Paul Jones Arena, a $130 million, 366,000 sq ft. facility. Soil testing revealed that the central portion of the footprint was soft and more fractured than anticipated. They required a higher soil bearing pressure (7,000 psf) to support the footings. Geopier Rammed Aggregate Piers were determined to be the most economical solution that would not negatively impact the construction schedule.

On the western side of the facility a 20,715 sq ft SierraScape pressure relief wall was constructed. It used nearly 50,000 tons of stone fill and exceeded 40 feet in height. It stands 12 inches out from the arena wall, with a void between the two, and eliminates the need for an arena wall designed to support the weight of the fill.

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