CASE STUDY

EXCAVATOR, PILE DRIVER DRIVE H-BEAMS FOR HUMP YARD SOUND BARRIER

Scope

The master retarder at the hump yard created an extremely loud noise during its normal operations. The noise was bad enough that it interefered with the work environment at a nearby locomotive repair shop. The railroad decided to build a permanent sound barrier made of stacked pieces of concrete, supported by H-beams, between the retarder and the shop. To complete this project they needed a contractor who was qualified to work at the busy hump yard to set up the steel framework for the sound barrier.

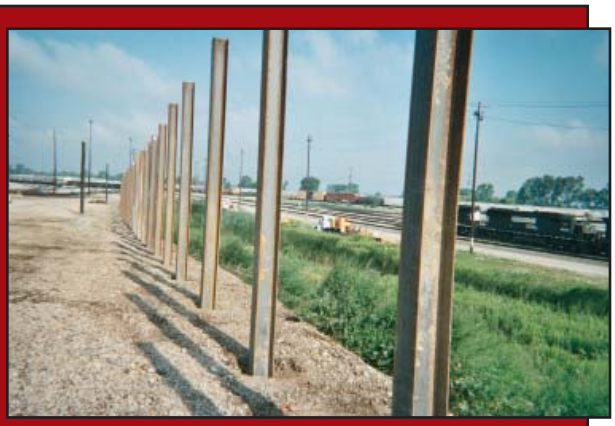
Solution

Hulcher Services deployed an excavator and vibratory hammer for this project. Over a five-day period the crew drove 30-foot H-beams along the surveyed line, which provided the structural framework for the concrete wall.

Because Hulcher's crew is fully trained and certified to work on all Class 1 railroads and experienced in railroad operations, they were able to deploy their equipment and perform the work at the jobsite without interfering with the hump yard's busy operations.

Outcome

With the H-beams properly placed the concrete contractor was able to drop in the concrete pieces to complete the sound wall. Hulcher completed its portion of the project on time and on budget. Ultimately the 15-foot tall wall stretched 330 feet to effectively reduce the amount of the retarder's noise that reached the locomotive repair shop. The railroad was pleased with Hulcher's ability to perform its work safely and without interruption to the yard's operations, and the repair shop employees are enjoying a greatly improved work environment.



KEY FACTS

PROJECT SUMMARY: Drive H-beams to create framework for concrete wall at hump yard.

SCHEDULE MET: Over five days the crew drove 30-foot H-beams to serve as the framework for the sound wall, completing work on schedule.

RAILROAD EXPERTISE: Hulcher crew's railroad training and experience let them complete project without affecting yard operations.