

1991 NOVA AWARD WINNER

Friction Column Jacking System

To meet the requirements of Rockwell International for the installation of seismic base isolators into the first floor columns of an existing and fully operating eight story concrete building, Adams & Smith invented the friction column jacking system. The system was comprised of jacking yokes that surrounded and grabbed the column above and below the isolator location using friction forces only. The column load was then transferred through four jacks placed between the yokes. This allowed a column section between the yokes to be cut through, removed, and replaced with the isolator. Steel bearing plates were grouted to the cut surfaces of the column and the isolator was slid into place and bolted to the plates. A flat jack was inserted into the opening above the isolator and below the column and was inflated with epoxy to transfer the column load from the friction yokes back into the isolated column.

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