



The Buzz

E-Newsletter

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Special preparations needed for indoor drilling

Recently, Sonic Drilling Ltd. took on the special challenge of drilling inside a heritage building that was originally constructed sometime during the 1890s. Using an SDC-350 rig, mounted on tracks, the project required numerous special preparations in advance of actually drilling indoors.

Originally, the building had been a coal-fired generating station although its last tenant was actually a steel mill and, since then, the building had been vacant for the past 20 years. Because there were no environmental regulations back then, the new owner now wanted to find out what was under those 4 ft. thick concrete floors.

Although the project only required two holes to be drilled to a depth of 30 ft., the safety efforts were immense to ensure that there was adequate venting of exhaust, enough light to see properly and enough space in which to operate. Unfortunately, the weather caused some delays as it began to snow heavily once the crew was ready.

On the positive side, the building offered a large hanger-like door so that the drill rig could be moved easily inside, despite the cramped quarters once it was in there.

Once the drilling commenced, all seemed to be going smoothly until the rig suddenly took a lengthy 10 minutes to drill only six inches. Unbelievably, the sonic drill had hit a buried railway track! After slowing down considerably, it buzzed through the thick regular gauge steel and kept right on going.

In the end, thanks to extensive planning, the project was completed without incident. For the crew, though, finding a buried railway track made this project a memorable one.

Sonic Around The World



Clients put our rigs to use around the globe

Today, sonic drills are in use in six continents and in every application imaginable.

We thought it might make for interesting reading to list of where some of those rigs are now and what they're doing:

- Diamond drilling in Africa
- Expanding an underground subway in New York, USA
- Revealing glacial secrets in Canada
- Searching for gold in Yanacocha, Peru
- Geothermal drilling under a soccer field in Canada
- Drilling for bauxite in Guyana, South America
- Geothermal drilling for an American school in Chofu, Japan
- Platinum mining at the Kondyor Mine, Russia
- Helping to rebuild after the tsunami at Sendai, Japan
- Mineral exploration in Chile
- Drilling offshore New Zealand from a WWII landing craft
- Installing a road pavement melting system in Japan
- Unlocking gas deposits in the Arctic
- Rehabilitating nuclear waste sites in the USA
- Stopping a massive dam leak in Canada
- Drilling in the difficult silica-laden Mississippi area, USA
- and many, many more.

Award-winning sonic drill rigs, patented and built by the Sonic Drill Corporation, have worked efficiently and profitably on thousands of drilling projects around the world.

Today, sonic drilling technology is robust, reliable and profitable and, across the planet, it is quickly becoming the drilling method of choice.

Rare Event Captured



Glowing Drill Pipe

Ray Roussy, patent holder and developer of modern day sonic drilling technology, always thought that, under just the right conditions, it might be possible for the drill pipe to glow. Still, it took 30 years and a particular set of conditions for his theory to actually be realized. Although the photo is a little blurry, it's the only photo that we know of that captured this rare event.

Have you got an interesting sonic drilling photo you'd like to share? [Send it](#) in, along with a little information on it, and we'll include it in an upcoming newsletter!