

# DEQ fines Sunny Rock Solar

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Martinsville Bulletin

Sunny Rock Solar LLC, a 20-megawatt solar farm under construction in Henry County, has been issued a Consent Order for serious violations by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Sunny Rock received approval from Henry County in March 2023 to build the facility on 97 acres of a 180-acre property at the northeast

corner of Soapstone Road and Joseph Martin Highway in the Ridge-way District.

On June 27, the company was issued notice that it had violated the State Water Control Law. The state agency levied a civil charge against Sunny Rock for \$39,778 and an aggravating factor charge of \$41,767 related to prior noncompliance and to deter future noncompliance. A cooperativeness and quick settle-

ment discounts of \$8,154 were offered, making the total civil penalty \$73,390.

The order against Sunny Rock is the fifth time the DEQ has fined the parent company, Energix, for violations, totaling more than \$400,000 in penalties.

Specifically, the infraction against Sunny Rock required corrective action by July 30 to prevent further impact on state waters. This

included removing all sediment and pollutants from streams and wetlands, and replanting impacted wetlands with a seed mix by Sept. 2.

“Energix is assessed a serious degree of culpability and has been subject to at least 12 previous enforcement cases resolved by consent orders since 2023,” wrote DEQ Enforcement Director Kristen

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DEQ

The DEQ reported concentrated runoff has resulted in channel erosion adjacent to the access road located across from Memory Lane in a report of Sunny Rock Solar LLC.

## Fines

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Sadtler in her report. "There can be no doubt Energix was aware of its legal requirements in this case, and there is no dispute it had control over the events constituting the violation."

Sadtler noted that Energix had been the beneficiary of hundreds of man-hours of compliance assistance from DEQ's most knowledgeable compliance and enforcement personnel.

"Despite this assistance, the Sunny Rock site had continuous discharges related to similar failures of its control measures over months," wrote Sadtler. "The methods and control technologies available to

prevent these violations are within Energix's knowledge as a sophisticated operator, and Energix possesses the resources to implement them."

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