Solar company facing 6-figure fine from Virginia **Department of Environmental Quality**

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Solar company facing 6-figure fine from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. (Credit: Julia Raimondi)

(WSET) — The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has given Energix Renewables a six-figure civil penalty.



According to a 34-page consent order, the DEQ found Energix Renewables had multiple issues due to the construction of their solar farms, things such as erosion, sediment, and drainage issues.

These issues were at their sites in Henry, Sussex, Wythe, and Buckingham counties.

The agency said it's a unique circumstance because it applies to seven facilities but just one operator.

Most penalties are just for a single facility.

These inspections happened at the Axton Solar Phase 1, 2, and 3, located at 374 Centerville Road in Axton, VA, located in Henry County.

Site 1 had seven inspections between March 2023 to May 2024.

Site 2 had six inspections between May 2023 and May 2024.





Site 3 had three inspections between July 2023 to Feb. 2024.

Waverly Solar Phase 2 was Site 4, located off 1486 off Beef Steak Road in Waverly, Va, in Sussex County.

Site 4 got five inspections between July 2023 to May 2024.

Wytheville Solar is Site 5 located off Lovers Ln, in Wytheville, located in Wythe County.

This site got five inspections between May 2023 to March 2024.

Buckingham II Solar is Site 6, located at 23 Highrock Road in Buckingham, VA.

Site 6 had three inspections between May to Dec. 2023.

Waverly Solar Phase 3 is Site 7, located off 29665 in Waverly, VA.

This site got three inspections from July 2023 to Feb. 2024.

Overall, between the seven sites, the DEQ conducted 32 inspections starting March of last year, through this month.

The order said that Energix Renewables would be fined \$158,000 within 30 days.

According to the order, \$120,150 is required to be deposited into the Virginia Stormwater Management Fund and \$28,850 into the Virginia Environmental Emergency Response Fund.

The consent order outlines that Energix Renewables did agree to fix the problems.

This is now the third year in a row the D-E-Q has cited and fined the company.

- In 2023 <u>order for \$97,651</u>
- In 2022 <u>order for \$68,250</u> and another <u>order for \$23,772.50</u>

A public comment period is open until June 21 where folks can submit written comments about the proposed enforcement action.

ABC13 reached out to the company for comment, but they have not yet responded.