

Chesapeake should revoke Energix solar energy permits over UN designated human rights concerns

CHESAPEAKE, VA, Feb. 24, 2020/PRNewswire/ The Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR) demands the City of Chesapeake revoke its [conditional use permit](#) issued to Caden-Energix Hickory to build a 32 Megawatt solar energy facility.

VCHR reviewed the city and Department of Environmental Quality permit process. Regulators have not properly weighed the moral hazard of a project with foreign ultimate beneficial owners that routinely engage in overseas human rights violations.

1. According to its [permit application](#) Caden Energix Hickory LLC is owned by the Israeli companies Energix and Alony Hetz.
2. On February 12 the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [designated Energix as a "Category G" business enterprise](#) using natural resources in Occupied Palestinian Territory.
3. Energix is the majority owner of the "[Meitarim Solar Field](#)" in the Israeli-occupied Jordan Valley on 98,749 square meters of Palestinian land. Surrounding Palestinian villages have been "suffering from forcible displacement, demolitions, lack of basic services and overall economic strangulation."
4. [Energix is alleged to have used](#) "questionable methods in obtaining access to the land from its indigenous Syrian-Druze owners, and in violation of international law" to build in 2015 a 155 MW field of wind turbines in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights.
5. Alony-Hetz is majority owner of Energix and holds a controlling share of Amot Investments Ltd., which owns an industrial building in the [illegal settlement of Ariel in the occupied Palestinian West Bank](#).
6. In its 2018 annual report, the [Virginia Israel Advisory Board](#) (VIAB) a state agency which functions as a taxpayer funded [export promotion board for Israel](#), announced support for Energix projects code named "Project Turbine."

Lack of due diligence into Energix will likely produce negative outcomes for Chesapeake as it already has for Greensville County. After providing millions in taxpayer subsidies to another VIAB project, [Oran Safety Glass](#), Greensville is now saddled with an Israeli military contractor struggling to obtain government contracts after it repeatedly delivered out-of-spec armor to the U.S. Army. [Tazewell County](#), which invested \$1.5 million in yet another VIAB aquaculture project a half decade ago (alongside a \$10 million Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority loan pledge) has nothing to show for its subsidy.

VCHR is a coalition of 16 organizations representing over 8,000 Virginians, urges the City of Chesapeake to immediately revoke all Energix permits within its jurisdiction.

For more information, contact