

NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Region III

Lisle, IL. 60532-4352 www.nrc.gov

No: III-19-013 June 13, 2019

Contact: Viktoria Mitlyng, 630-829-9662 Prema Chandrathil, 630-829-9663

NRC to Hold Open House to Discuss 2018 Performance of Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will discuss the 2018 safety performance of the Prairie Island nuclear power plant during an open house on June 25 in Red Wing, Minn.

The open house, to be held at the Red Wing Public Library, Foot Room, 225 East Ave., will run from 4-6 p.m. NRC employees responsible for plant inspections, including the resident inspectors based full-time at the site, will be available to discuss the plant's performance.

The two-unit facility, operated by Northern States Power Company, Minnesota, is located in Welch, Minn., approximately 28 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

Prairie Island operated safely during 2018. At the end of the year, all inspection findings and performance indicators were of very low safety significance. As a result, it remains under the NRC's normal level of oversight, which entails thousands of hours of inspection each year.

The NRC Reactor Oversight Process uses color-coded inspection findings and indicators to measure plant performance. The colors start at green and increase to white, yellow or red, commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Inspection findings or performance indicators with more than very low safety significance trigger increased NRC oversight.

Inspections are performed by two NRC resident inspectors and inspection specialists from the Region III office located in Lisle, Ill.

The <u>annual assessment letter</u> for Prairie Island, as well as the <u>notice</u> for the open house, are available on the <u>NRC website</u>. Current performance information for <u>Unit 1</u> and <u>Unit 2</u> is also available.