



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Region III

Lisle, IL. 60532-4352

www.nrc.gov



No: III-24-007

April 30, 2024

Contact: [Prema Chandrathil](#) 630-829-9663

[Viktoria Mitlyng](#) 630-829-9662

NRC to Hold Virtual Public Meeting to Discuss 2023 Performance of Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will discuss the 2023 safety performance of the Prairie Island nuclear power plant during a virtual public meeting on May 8. The two-unit plant, in Welch, Minnesota, is operated by Northern State Power Company-Minnesota.

The virtual meeting will be held from 5-6 p.m. Central time on [Microsoft Teams](#). Information on how to call in to participate can be found in the [meeting notice](#). The NRC will present its assessment of the plant's 2023 performance. Staff responsible for plant inspection and oversight, including the resident inspectors based at the site, will be available for a question-and-answer session.

The NRC determined that Prairie Island operated safely during 2023. All inspection findings and performance indicators were green or very low safety significance. As a result, the plant remains under the NRC's baseline 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, based on the safety significance of the issues involved. Inspection findings or performance indicators with more than a very low safety significance trigger an increase of NRC oversight.

Plant inspections are performed by two NRC resident inspectors and inspection specialists from the agency's Region III office in Lisle, Ill.

The [annual assessment letter](#) for Prairie Island is available on the NRC website. Current performance information for [Unit 1](#) and [Unit 2](#) are also available on the NRC website and updated on a quarterly basis.