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NRC CALIFORNIA FIELD OFFICE TO CLOSE SEPTEMBER 30

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will close its field office in Walnut Creek, California, effective September 30, completing the consolidation of its functions at the NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The move is part of the agency's effort to streamline operations and increase efficiency.

NRC regulatory activities at commercial nuclear power plants and other licensed nuclear operations in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington -- the area previously covered by the field office -- will continue without change. Inspections and other duties previously conducted by staff based in Walnut Creek will be handled from the Texas offices. Resident inspectors at nuclear power plants in California and Washington will continue their duties without change.

The Walnut Creek Field Office was established in April 1994, when the two western regions of the NRC, Region IV and V, were consolidated. When the decision was made last year to close the field office it employed 30 people.

NRC Region IV is headed by Regional Administrator Ellis W. Merschoff and Deputy Regional Administrator James E. Dyer, and employs about 180 people, including nuclear engineers, radiation health physicists and other technical experts.

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