



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 19, 1996

Joseph Carson  
19853 Twin Harbour Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37922

Dear Mr. Carson:

I have been asked to respond to your letter to Chairman Jackson, dated April 2, 1996. In your letter, you described your experience as a whistleblower at the Department of Energy and recommended that NRC "take a page from DOE's book" in its attempts to improve the lot of whistleblowers at NRC licensed facilities.

The relationship between DOE and its contractors is substantially different than the relationship between NRC and its licensees. However, NRC is concerned about the treatment of whistleblowers at its licensed facilities and has expended considerable resources to study the matter and recommend changes designed to improve the environment and protection afforded whistleblowers. I am enclosing a copy of NUREG-1499, "Reassessment of the NRC's Program for Protecting Allegers Against Retaliation," for your information. This document describes the efforts of the Review Team appointed by the NRC's Executive Director for Operations and the recommendations that the Review Team presented to the Commission. Following consultation with the Commission, the vast majority of these recommendations was approved and are being implemented.

Sincerely,

James Lieberman, Director  
Office of Enforcement

Enclosure: NUREG-1499

220027

9604220365 960419  
PDR NUREG  
1499 C PDR

JEH/10

April 19, 1996

Joseph Carson

DISTRIBUTION

JLieberman, OE

JRGray, OE

Day File

EDO File (GT96223)

NUDOCS

PDR

OE  
RPRosano  
4/19/96

D:OE  
JLieberman  
4/19/96

DOCUMENT: G:\CARSON.DR