

[Redacted]

Huffman,

11:00

12/08/86

Office of Defects and Investigation
NVS-216
400 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: VIN #1FTNX20F0YR [Redacted]
2000 Ford F-250, 7.3 diesel
47,300 miles on Vehicle

Gentlemen:

On Sunday, 11/26/86, we were on a return trip from Texarkana to Houston, TX. An approximate 4 1/2 hour drive. I noticed the truck seemed to be using excessive fuel, I was not getting the mileage. When I stopped to fill up I noticed a puddle under the engine but thought it to be the A/C drain. Approximately 20 miles down the road, again the fuel gauge seemed to be dropping and we smelled diesel fuel.

I pulled over at a rest stop and with the engine idling fuel was leaking at a good rate under the engine. The entire undercarriage of the truck was covered with diesel. We took out our fire extinguisher and drove to the next town. Fortunately, I found an auto parts store open and was able to stop the leak by installing a 3/8 bolt up on the metal drain line which is connected to the water/separator valve on the main fuel filter. Ford uses a plastic drain valve. I estimate I lost 5-8 gallons of fuel on the roads.

This valve is located directly on top of the engine which we all know experiences extreme heat during the summer ambient temperatures.

Question, how many other Diesel powered vehicles are dumping fuel on the highways? This should be an immediate recall under the emissions and fire safety hazards.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

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Note: Per Ford classroom, Pure Diesel Power 715-498-0701, has a repair kit. Called Jimmie and he tells me the company has sold approx 100 kits since October, 86, but is sending.

*mc
12/29/86
cwl*

