INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 13, 2011

[redacted]
Atlantic Beach, NY [redacted]

NVS-216 mec
Ref. # 10403298

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning model year (MY) 2004 Ford F450 ambulance. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. In your correspondence, you indicated that the coating in the interior diesel fuel tank corrodes and collects as sediment which is extracted into the fuel system. The fuel lines become fouled and clogged damaging the fuel pump and valves. You also stated this has caused the vehicle to stall during several emergency calls and not restart.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to the fuel system in MY 2004 Ford F450 vehicles. We are currently monitoring the circumstances surrounding fuel tank interior delamination; however, at this time no determinations have been made. For your information, we have enclosed a brochure explaining the investigation process which can also be found on our web site at: www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. The information you provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems.

Sincerely,

Randy Reid

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure