



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 19, 2012

[REDACTED]
Old Tappan, NJ [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. No. 10440511

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2003 GMC Yukon Denali. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received your correspondence.

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 safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate your report and your prior complaint from January 16. You indicated that the brakes in your MY 2003 GMC Yukon Denali failed after a long trip. A dealer later determined that the brake lines were rusted. You request that this problem be elevated to a recall. On January 5, 2011, ODI opened an investigation, engineering analysis (EA11-001, resume enclosed) into owner's allegations of brake failure caused by corroded brake lines that ruptured in certain MY 1999 through MY 2003 General Motors light trucks and sport utility vehicles. The affected vehicles were sold or currently registered in Salt Belt states that use high levels of de-icing chemicals on roads in the winter. Our investigation continues and no determinations have been reached at this time.

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 www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Reid". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

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

Enclosure

and in 10 others the vehicle was intentionally steered off the road or into another lane of travel in order to avoid a crash.

An Engineering Analysis has been opened for subject vehicles sold or currently registered in Salt Belt states to further assess the scope, frequency and safety risks associated with sudden failures of corroded brake pipes that can result in decreased brake effectiveness. ODI will continue to gather information on subject vehicles outside the Salt Belt as well.