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DEC - 6 2005

James P. Vondale, Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental & Safety Engineering
Ford Motor Company
Fairlane Plaza South
330 Town Center Drive
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738

Re: Ford Request Confidential Treatment on RQ05-002/NVS-212cag.

Dear Mr. Vondale:

This responds to your October 18, 2005, letter requesting confidential treatment for documents Ford Motor Company provided in response to the above agency inquiry. Ford seeks confidential treatment for Appendix H of RQ05-002, the documents of which are contained on a single CD-ROM disk. Ford requests the enclosed documents be protected from public release for ten (10) years.

Ford identifies these documents as Appendix H of RQ05-002 and are located on a single CD-ROM disk labeled "RQ05-002 Confidential, Appendix H, October 18, 2005. On this single CD-ROM disk there are four files (CCRG.pdf, Suppler.pdf, FRC.pdf, and 2005-10-18 Attachment 1-Confidentiality Index.pdf).

I am granting your request.

Because this information was not submitted voluntarily, I have reviewed your submission under the competitive harm standard announced in *National Parks & Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1974) and its progeny. Under that test, information is confidential under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), if its disclosure would be likely to cause substantial competitive harm to the submitter or to impair the government's ability to collect the information in the future.

The information in your submission contains engineering design processes, internal analysis and other commercially sensitive internal business information. Disclosure of this information would be likely to cause Ford substantial competitive harm. As a result, I am

according confidential treatment to the information contained in your submission. Subject to the conditions below, this grant of confidential treatment will remain in effect indefinitely.

This grant of confidential treatment is subject to certain conditions. The information may be disclosed under 49 CFR § 512.22 based upon newly discovered or changed facts, and you must inform the agency of any changed circumstances that may affect the protection of the information (49 CFR § 512.10)). If necessary, you will be notified prior to the release of any information under the procedures established by our regulations (49 CFR § 512.22(b)).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Otto G. Matheke, III
Senior Attorney

NHTSA:NCC-113(Transtecs)jj:11/30/05:65263:cyt
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