

SEP - 7 2010

David Robertson, Group Manager
Environmental and Safety Engineering
Mazda North America Operations
1500 Enterprise Drive
Allen Park, MI 48101-3031

Re: Confidentiality Determination/August 2, 2010 Presentation on Loss of Power
Steering Assist (NVS-212llh/PE10-021)

Dear Mr. Robertson:

This responds to your August 2, 2010 request for confidential treatment for Mazda Motor Corporation (Mazda) presentation materials presented during an August 2, 2010 meeting with representatives of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regarding allegations of power steering assist failure. Your request seeks confidential treatment for the design information until the termination of the production of the vehicle, and the engineering analysis and manufacturing process information be protected permanently.

Your request is granted.

Mazda provided this information voluntarily. Accordingly, I have reviewed your request under the principles set forth in *Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Comm'n*, 975 F.2d 871 (D.C.Cir.1992). Under the test set forth in *Critical Mass*, financial or commercial information provided to the government on a voluntary basis is "confidential" for purposes of Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4)) if it is the kind of information that would customarily not be released to the public by the submitter. Your request indicates that the information contained in the materials you submitted is information that Mazda would not customarily release to the public. Review of the information indicates that it is not publicly available. Accordingly, I am granting your request for confidential treatment to the information contained in your submission.

Subject to the conditions below, this grant of confidential treatment for the design information will remain in effect until the termination of the production of the vehicle, and the engineering analysis and manufacturing process information 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

