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December 15, 2023

Ms. Tanya Topka, Acting Director
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W45-302
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Topka:

Subject: PE23-015

Ford Motor Company's (Ford) response to the Agency's letter dated October 6, 2023, regarding its investigation of allegations of oil pump failures in model year (MY) 2018 - 2021 Ford EcoSport vehicles equipped with the 1.0L engine is attached.

Ford's response to this Preliminary Evaluation information request was prepared pursuant to a diligent search for the information requested. While we have employed our best efforts to provide responsive information, the breadth of the Agency's request and the requirement that information be provided on an expedited basis make this a difficult task. We nevertheless have made a substantial effort to provide thorough and accurate information, and we would be pleased to meet with Agency personnel to discuss any aspect of this Preliminary Evaluation.

The scope of Ford's investigation conducted to locate responsive information focused on Ford employees most likely to be knowledgeable about the subject matter of this inquiry and on review of Ford files in which responsive information ordinarily would be expected to be found and to which Ford ordinarily would refer. Ford notes that although electronic information was included within the scope of its search, Ford has not attempted to retrieve from computer storage electronic files that were overwritten or deleted. As the Agency is aware, such files generally are unavailable to the computer user even if they still exist and are retrievable through expert means. To the extent that the Agency's definition of Ford includes suppliers, contractors, and affiliated enterprises for which Ford does not exercise day-to-day operational control, we note that information belonging to such entities ordinarily is not in Ford's possession, custody, or control.

Ford has construed this request as pertaining to vehicles manufactured for sale in the United States, its protectorates, and territories.

Ford notes that some of the information being produced pursuant to this inquiry may contain personal information such as customer names, addresses, telephone numbers, and complete Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs). Ford is producing such personal information in an unredacted form to facilitate the Agency's investigation with the understanding that the Agency will not make such personal information available to the public under FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

Answers to your specific questions are in the folders included in this submission. As requested, after each numeric designation, we have set forth verbatim the request for information, followed by our response. Unless otherwise stated, Ford has undertaken to provide responsive documents dated up to and including October 6, 2023, the date of your inquiry. Ford has searched within the following offices for responsive documents: Environment, Safety Engineering and Compliance, Ford Customer Service Division, Global Core Engineering, Office of the General Counsel, and North American Product Development.

The agency defined "Subject vehicles" as "all MY 2018-2021 Ford EcoSport vehicles with 1.0L engines manufactured for sale or lease in the United States, including, but not limited to, the District of Columbia, and current U.S. territories and possessions".

The agency defined "Peer vehicles" as "all MY 2016-2018 Focus, MY 2017-2021 Fiesta, and any other Ford vehicles with the same 1.0L engine or subject component in the subject vehicles manufactured for sale or lease in the United States, including, but not limited to, the District of Columbia, and current U.S. territories and possessions".

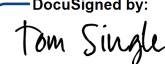
In an October 18, 2023, meeting with the agency's investigator for this Preliminary Evaluation, the agency and Ford agreed that Subject and Peer vehicles would be limited to those 1.0L engine vehicles with the 6F15 automatic transmission.

The agency defined the "Subject component" as "all engine oil pump assembly".

The agency defined the "Alleged defect" as "failure or malfunction of the subject component".

If you have any questions concerning this response, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

For:
Emily Frascaroli

Attachment