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April 21, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE AND  
CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL,  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. George H. Person  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. NSA-11  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: **EIDorado National (California), Inc.**  
**Defect and Non-Compliance Report**

Dear Mr. Person:

Our firm is general counsel for EIDorado National (California), Inc. ("EIDorado"), 9670 Galena Street, Riverside, California 92509. EIDorado National received notification from Deere & Company ("John Deere") that there is a potential safety-related defect with respect to John Deere's 8.1 liter compressed natural gas engine models HFN01 and HFN03 that may cause vehicles containing such engines to not comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 124. John Deere has already instituted a safety recall campaign in connection with this matter. The recall number assigned by NHTSA for John Deere's safety recall campaign is 05E-025.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by EIDorado contain the John Deere 8.1 liter compressed natural gas engines that have been determined by John Deere to have a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety.

As more specifically set forth below, John Deere has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective engines, including but not limited to providing notification to all of EIDorado's potential customers that are subject to the recall campaign, providing the necessary parts to repair the defect, and filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

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(3 Pages)

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The defective 8.1 liter compressed natural gas engines supplied by John Deere have been used on certain 2002 and 2003 model year E-Z Rider II buses manufactured by ElDorado during the period from January 2002 through July 2003. The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 24.
- B. Description of Defect. All of the buses subject to this recall campaign contain the 8.1 liter compressed natural gas engines manufactured by John Deere. The defect involves the engine control unit and the throttle used on the engines. The engine's air throttle may act erratically under a unique operating mode. The unique operating mode has been defined as moments in which the engine is going from full load to zero load very rapidly. Once the engine is taken from full to zero load, the engine may surge inappropriately, causing engine speed to vary at idle. Since the engine configuration is coupled with an automatic transmission, the bus may also exhibit surging behavior. A bus exhibiting this condition may present a risk to motor vehicle safety, and is unlikely to comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 124.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. ElDorado received notification from John Deere on April 5, 2005 that a potential defect with the 8.1 liter compressed natural gas engines may exist.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notifications issued by John Deere in connection with recall campaign 05E-025, the engine control unit software will be updated so as to reduce the minimum governor gain calibration to a value that will eliminate the potential surging condition. These updates will be performed by John Deere's service network, John Deere's employees, or by contract workers. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact John Deere in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by John Deere. John Deere has agreed to remedy the defective engines without charge to the owners.

In order for John Deere to remedy the defect referred to above, all of the owners of the buses sold by ElDorado that are subject to this recall campaign must be notified. As of this date, ElDorado has completed its obligation to provide John Deere with the names and addresses of the current owners of such buses. John Deere will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 05E-025.

- E. Owner Notifications. John Deere has agreed to provide the notification letters to the owners of the buses that are subject to this recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 05E-025.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. John Deere will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 05E-025. Because the information included by John Deere in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the ElDorado

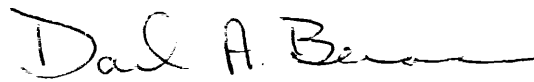
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buses subject to this recall campaign, EIDorado will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.

- G. Campaign Number. EIDorado does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. EIDorado will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of EIDorado with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of EIDorado in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at (937) 492-1271.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel A. Bensman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Daniel A. Bensman

dja

cc: EIDorado National (California), Inc. (via fax)  
Mr. John M. Garmhausen

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