



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 26, 2012

Mr. Paul V. Sheridan
DDM Consultants
22357 Columbia Street
Dearborn, MI 48124

NVS-216 rrr
Ref. No. 10335943

Dear Mr. Sheridan:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) investigation, preliminary analysis (PE10-031). I am responding to your April 11 letter on behalf of Administrator Strickland.

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 trend may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Our investigation of fuel tanks in model year (MY) 1993 through MY 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles presenting a fire hazard in crashes is continuing and no determinations have been reached at this time. We cannot comment on a dealership's responsibility with regards to punitive damages, this does not fall under our jurisdiction. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Sincerely,

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