

# Benchmarking and Characterization of a Full Continuous Cylinder Deactivation System

SAE World Congress  
April 10-12, 2018

Stani Bohac  
[bohac.stani@epa.gov](mailto:bohac.stani@epa.gov)



# Benefits and Challenges of Cylinder Deactivation

CDA has the potential to improve engine efficiency at relatively low cost.

- Reduced pumping
- Reduced cylinder heat transfer
- Improved throttle response

Challenges:

- Transitions
- NVH
- Durable deactivation system
- Benefit limited to low engine load

# Types of Cylinder Deactivation

EPA considering two types of CDA:

deacPD = partial discrete (e.g., 8 or 4 cylinders)

deacFC = full continuous (e.g., continuous between 0-8 cylinders)

# Why is EPA Interested?

EPA continuously evaluates advanced technologies to support the setting of appropriate GHG standards.

- Light-duty GHG standards through 2025 are being reconsidered and revised.

EPA's prior analysis<sup>1</sup> considered deacPD but not deacFC.

DeacFC is a potential enabler for meeting GHG standards<sup>2</sup>.

This investigation was conducted to benchmark and characterize deacFC and evaluate its potential as an advanced, production-ready technology for reducing GHG emissions.

1) EPA, 2017, EPA-420-R-17-001

2) Younkings et al., 2017, 38<sup>th</sup> International Vienna Motor Symposium

# Objectives

Characterize effectiveness and fly zone of deacFC

- Steady-state tests

- ✓ EPA chassis benchmarking – V8
- ✓ Tula engine publications – V8, I4



effectiveness curves  
for I3, I4, V6, V8

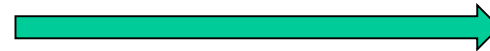
- Drive cycle tests

- ✓ EPA benchmarking – V8
- ✓ Tula publications – V8



deacFC fly zone

Initial full vehicle modeling using ALPHA



Compare drive cycle  
efficiencies from  
simulation and lab

Compare deacFC benefit  
on two vehicle types

# deacFC Vehicles



Photo by Tula

Tula Technology Dynamic Skip Fire (DSF) applied to  
2011 GMC Yukon Denali 6.2L L94

- fires 0-8 cylinders
- EPA and Tula



Photo by Tula

Tula Technology DSF applied to  
2015 VW Jetta 1.8L EA888

- fires 0-4 cylinders
- Tula

# Steady-State Operation

# deacFC benefit on V8 (EPA benchmarking)

Test vehicle provided by Tula Technology  
MY2011 GMC Yukon Denali 2WD  
6.2L L94 V8 PFI gasoline engine  
6L80 6-speed automatic transmission  
Tier 2, 93 AKI test fuel



## “V8 mode”

- GM ECU, disabled AFM
- Torque converter slip: 17-39 rpm

## “deacFC mode”

- Tula ECU, deacFC
- Torque converter slip: 28-85 rpm



# Steady-State Chassis Tests (EPA benchmarking)

## Vehicle

- 49 and 81 mph

## Engine

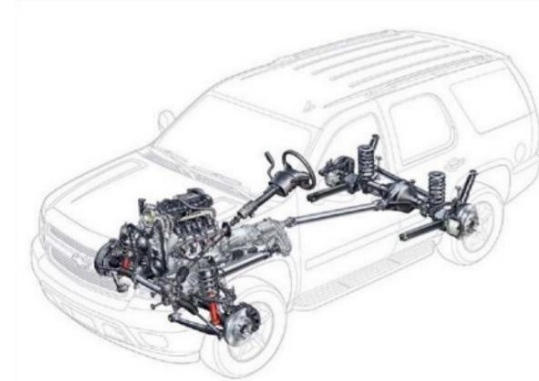
- deacFC and V8 mode
- 1200 – 2600 rpm
- 0.3 – 5.8 bar BMEP (add variable gradient load to SET road load)

## Torque Converter

- 17 – 85 rpm slip

## Transmission

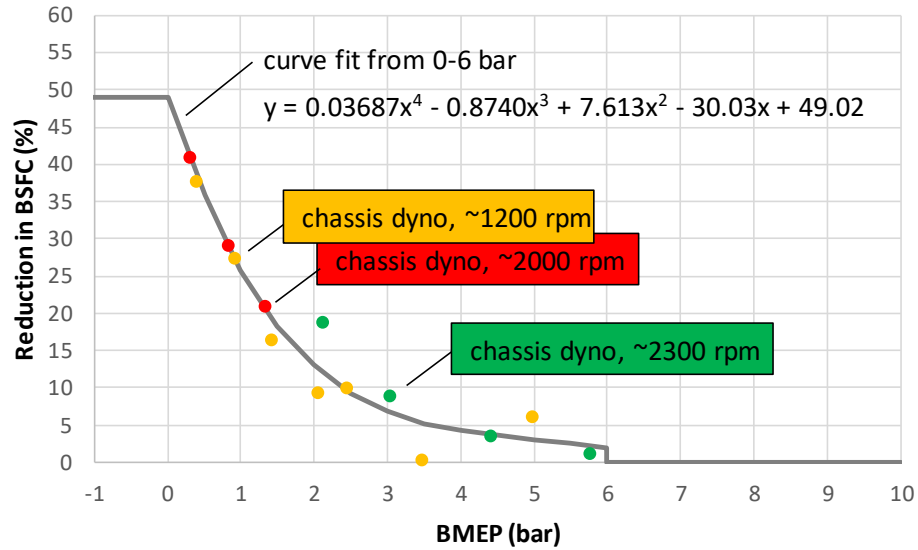
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> gear



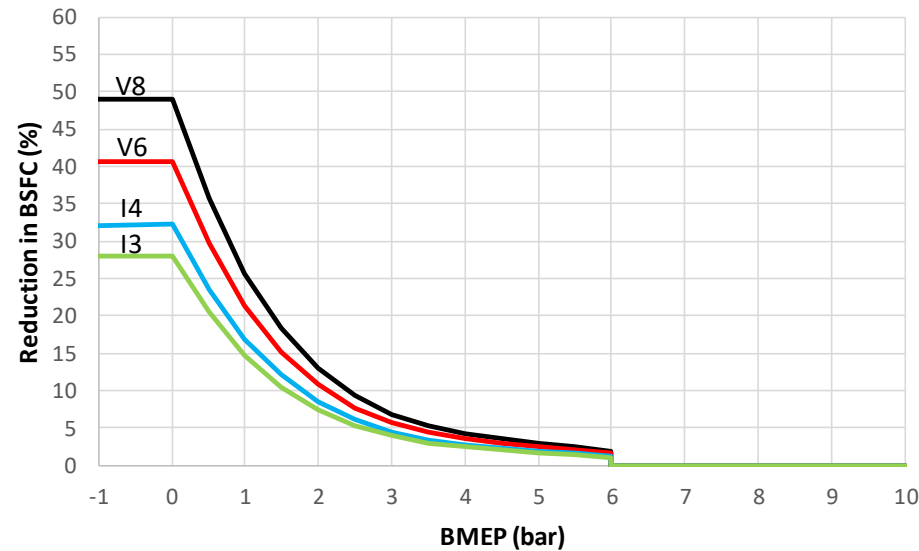
<u>Component</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Source</u>
Electrical load	0.42 kW	benchmarking
Torque converter	0.03 – 2.17 kW	engine speed and torque, chassis roll speed
Transmission	1.31 – 3.82 kW	2014 GM 6L80 benchmarking <sup>3</sup>
Differential	0.38 – 2.65 kW	1999 Ford 3.55 differential/axle benchmarking <sup>4</sup>
Drive tires	2.35 – 3.90 kW	$C_{rr}=0.009^5$ , test weight=6000 lbs, wt dist.=55/45

3) Stuhldreher et al., SAE 2017-01-5020  
4) EPA and SwRI, 1999, Contract No. 68-C7-0012  
5) NAS, 2006, Tires and Passenger Vehicle Fuel Economy

# deacFC benefit on V8 (EPA benchmarking)



chassis dynamometer testing  
MY2011 Yukon Denali  
GM 6.2L L94 V8 PFI engine  
Tier 2, 93 AKI test fuel



ALPHA full vehicle model  
(EPA effectiveness)

# deacFC benefit on V8 (Tula publication)

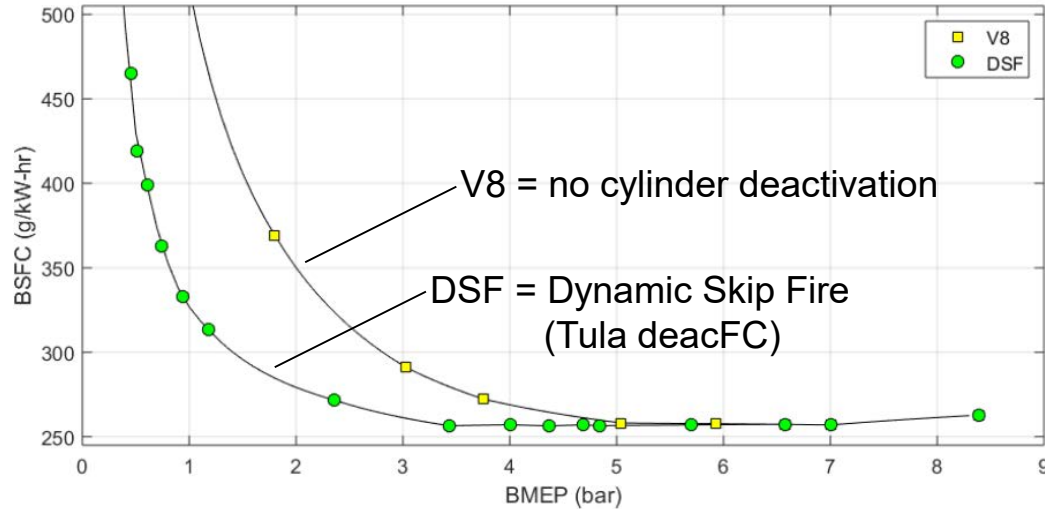


Figure 7: Fuel Consumption for DSF and V8 operation, 1600 RPM

engine dynamometer testing<sup>2</sup>

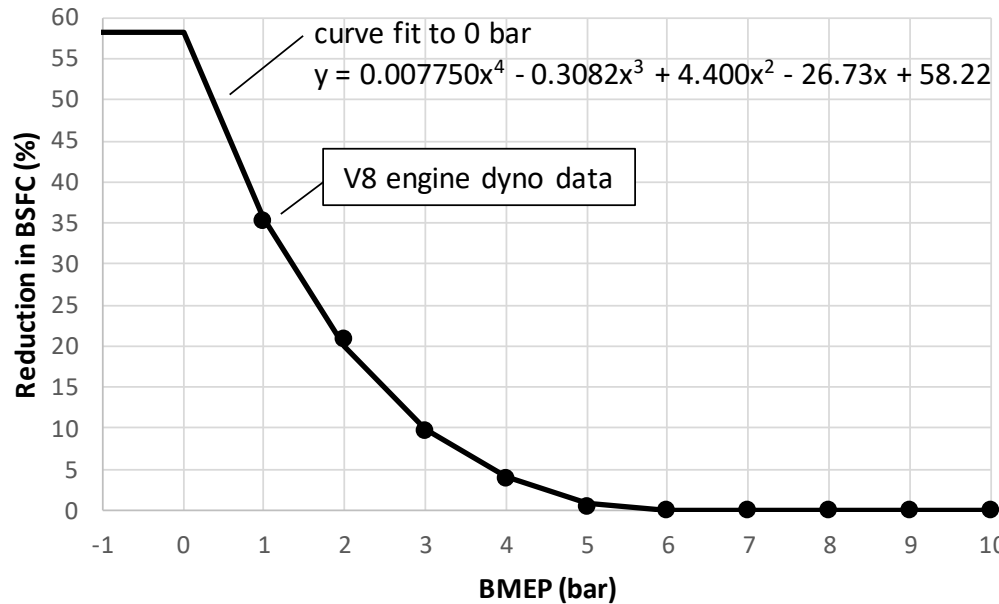
GM 6.2L L94 V8 PFI engine

1600 rpm

93 AKI fuel

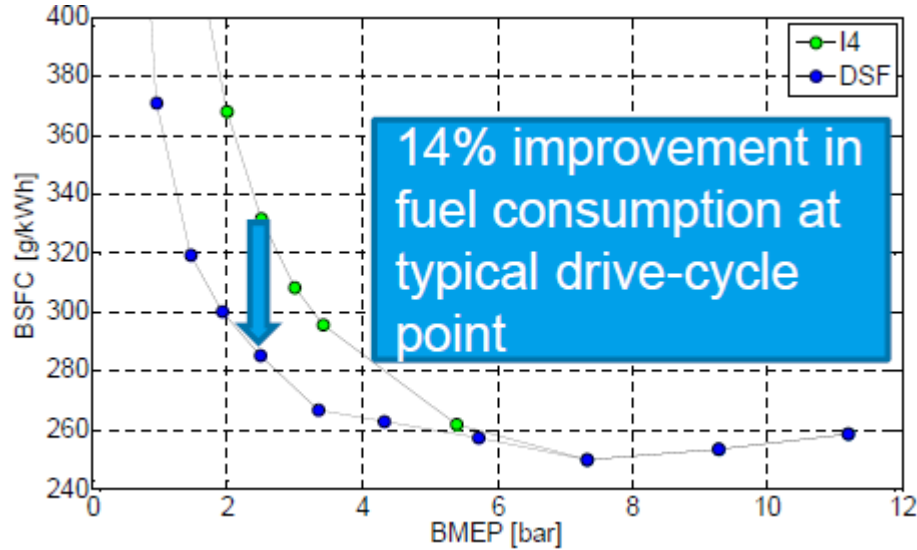
\* GHG standards call for Tier 2 test fuel

\* deacFC benefit would be lower with lower AKI



- Extrapolating benefit to -2 bar adds less than 0.1% benefit in FTP-75 (simulation result) because engine doesn't spend time here.

# deacFC benefit on I4 turbo (Tula publication)



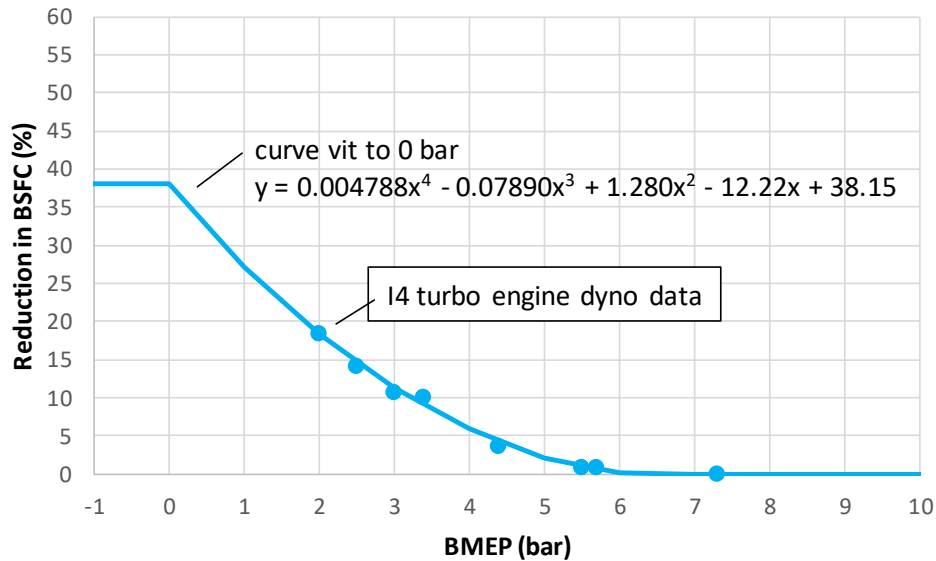
engine dynamometer testing<sup>6</sup>

VW 1.8L EA888 I4 turbo engine

1600 rpm

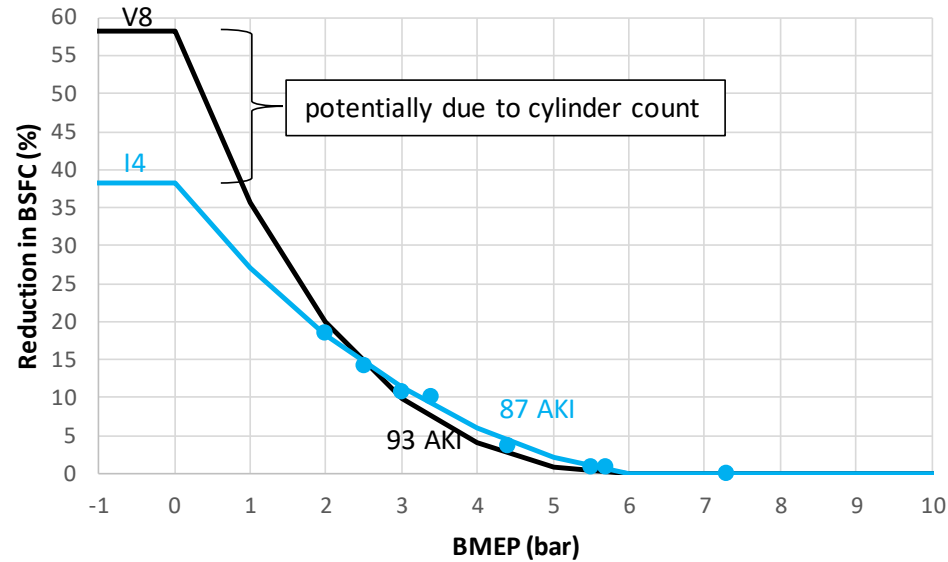
87 AKI CARB fuel

- GHG standards call for Tier 2 test fuel
- Use of 87 AKI gives a lower (conservative) deacFC benefit



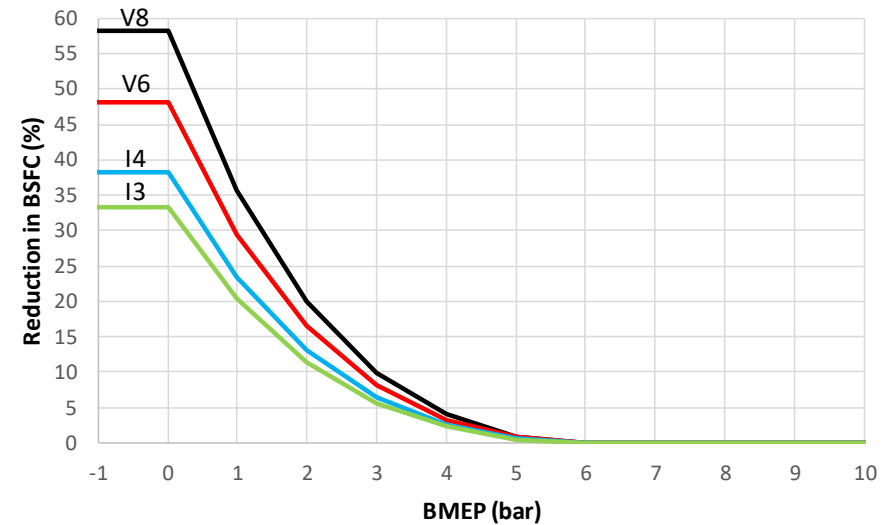
6) Fuschetto et al., 2017, Oral-Only Presentation, SAE World Congress

# deacFC benefit scaled to V8, V6, I4, I3 (Tula publication)

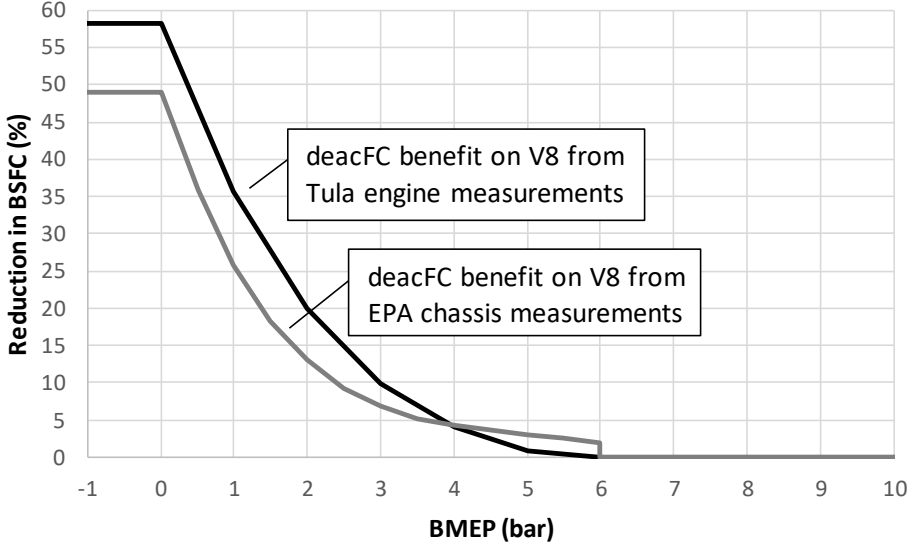
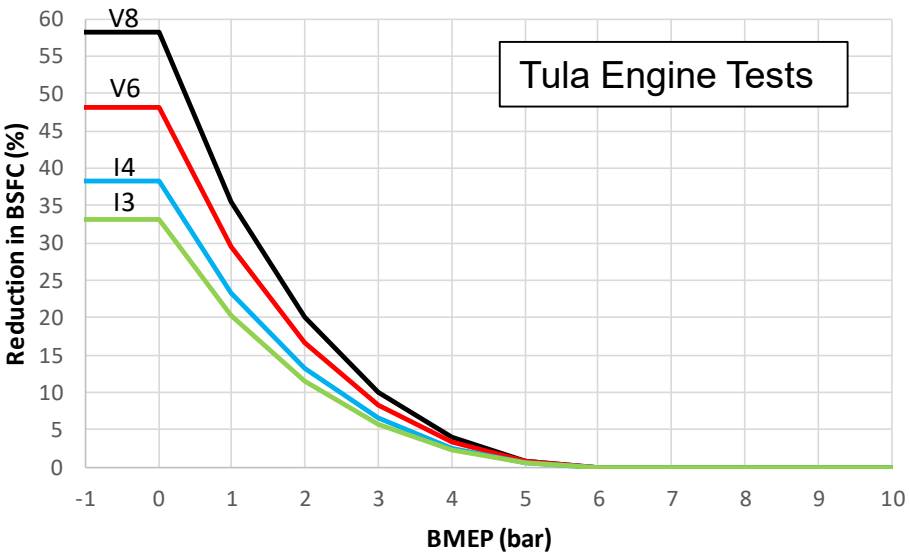
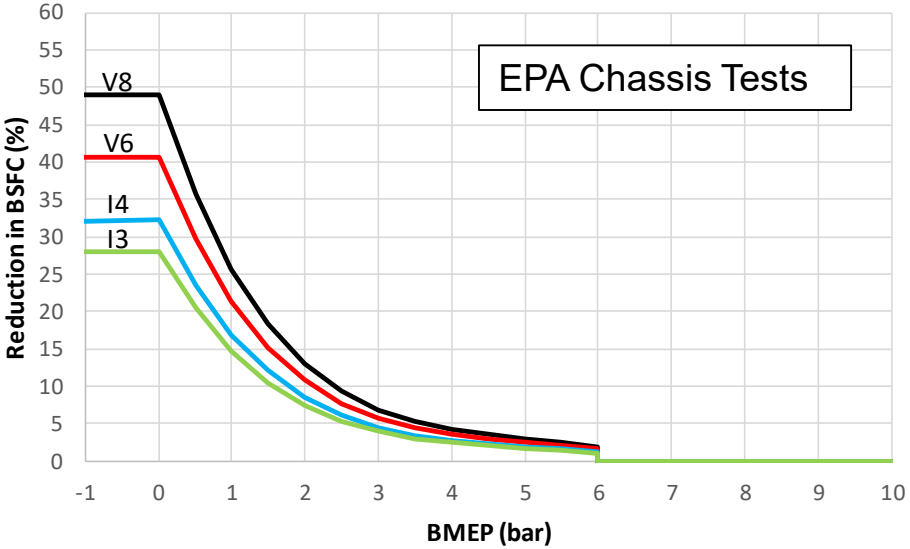


Assume benefit at 0 bar scales with cylinder number (NVH)  
I3, I4, V6 curves for 87 AKI tests (conservative) since GHG  
standards specify 93 AKI

ALPHA full vehicle model  
(Tula effectiveness)



# Comparing EPA Chassis and Tula Engine deacFC Effectiveness



❖ EPA and Tula effectiveness curves are very similar.

# Drive Cycle Operation

# deacFC benefit on V8 (Tula publication<sup>2</sup>)

## Chassis dynamometer testing

MY2011 GMC Yukon Denali 2WD

6.2L L94 V8 PFI gasoline engine

6L80 6-speed automatic transmission

Tier 2, 93 AKI test fuel



Photo by Tula

## “V8 mode”

- GM ECU, disabled AFM and DFSSO
- GM transmission shift strategy

## “deacFC mode”

- Tula ECU, deacFC and DFSSO
- Slightly higher torque converter slip



# deacFC benefit on V8 (Tula publication<sup>2</sup>)

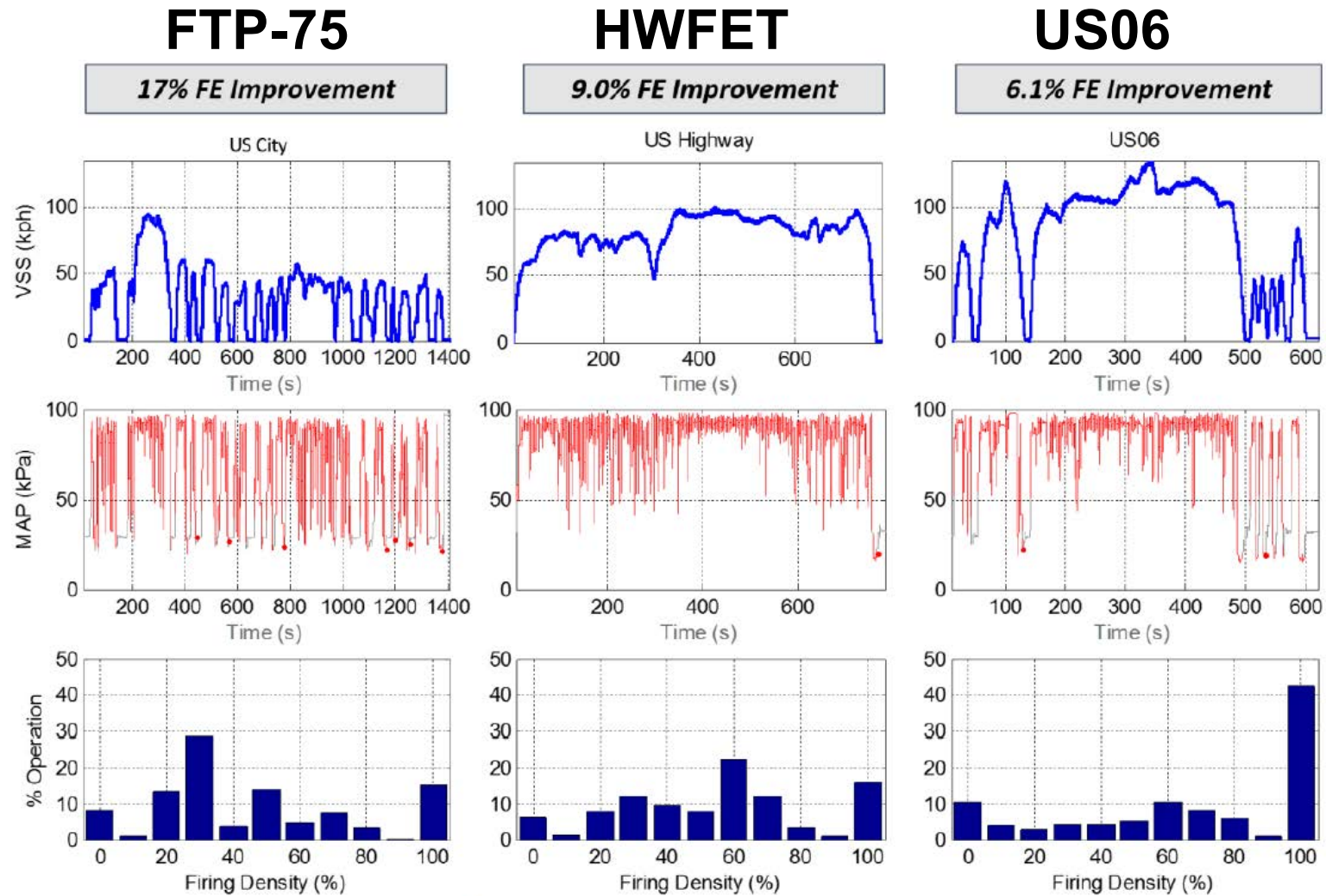


Figure 12: Results of Fuel Economy Testing with DSF, compared to V8 operation

# deacFC benchmarking at EPA

Drive cycle benchmarking performed to:

- 1) Compare EPA and Tula results
- 2) Quantify deacFC 'fly zone' needed for vehicle modeling

Test vehicle:

MY2011 GMC Yukon Denali 2WD  
6.2L L94 V8 PFI gasoline engine  
6L80 6-speed automatic transmission  
Tier 2, 93 AKI test fuel



## "V8 mode"

- GM ECU, disabled AFM and DFSSO
- GM transmission shift strategy
- Passed Tier 2 bin 5 NMOG, CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM

## "deacFC mode"

- Tula ECU, deacFC and DFSSO
- Slightly higher torque converter slip
- Passed Tier 2 bin 5 CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM

# deacFC benefit on V8

	<b>Tula publication<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>EPA benchmarking*</b>
FTP-75	17.0 %	13.4 % (14.6 → 16.5 mpg)
HWFET	9.0 %	9.9 % (25.0 → 27.5 mpg)
US06	6.1 %	9.5 % (14.4 → 15.7 mpg)

EPA benchmarking shows:

- Smaller deacFC benefit in FTP-75, higher deacFC benefit in HWFET and US06
- Average of 3 cycles almost identical (10.9% versus 10.7% improvement)

Why the difference?

- different driver, different lab, different day
- deacFC benefit is the ratio of 2 tests ( $MPG_{deacFC}/MPG_{V8}$ ); error stacking

## Note

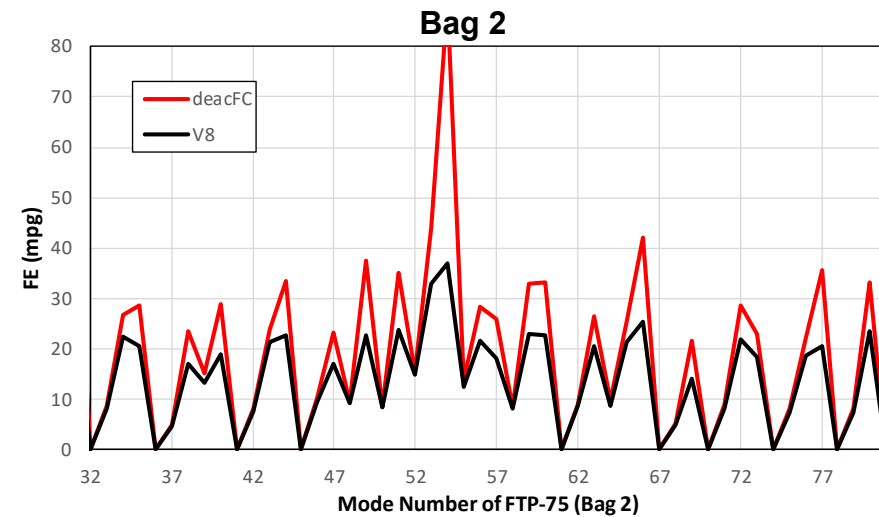
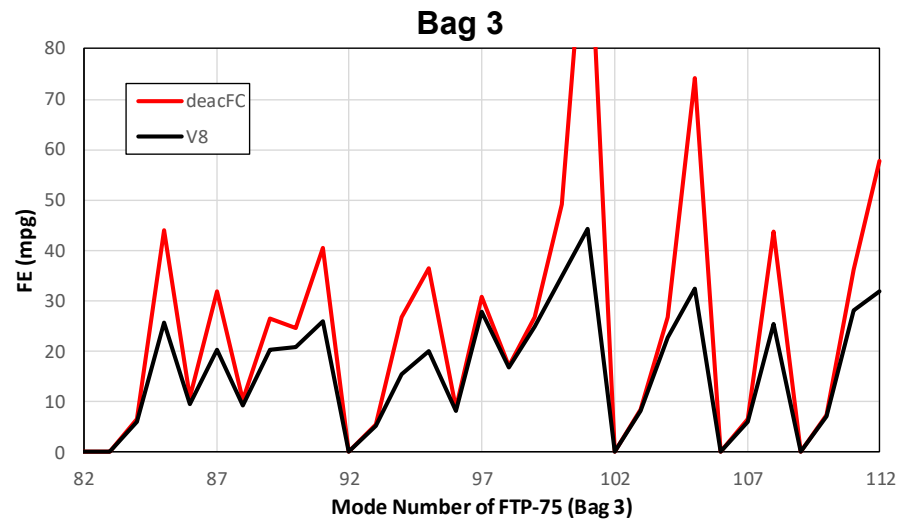
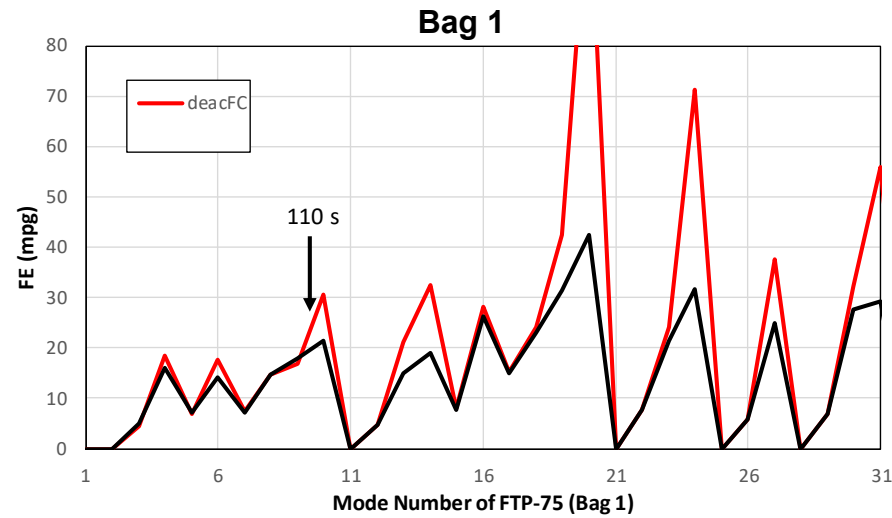
- DFSO is active in deacFC mode but not in V8 mode
- Full vehicle modeling<sup>7</sup> shows DSFO provides 2.5% benefit in FTP-75 and 1.2% in HWFET in V8 mode.

2) Younkins et al., 2017, 38<sup>th</sup> International Vienna Motor Symposium  
7) ALPHA model introduced by Lee et al., SAE 2013-01-0808  
\* Average of 2 tests in V8 mode / average of 2 tests in V8 mode

## deacFC benefit on V8 – FTP-75 by Bag (EPA benchmarking)

	<b>deacFC relative to V8 (% improvement in MPG)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Bag 1	7.1 %	deacFC inactive until oil warms
Bag 2	15.8 %	Lowest engine loads
Bag 3	14.0 %	Higher loads than bag 2

# deacFC benefit on V8 – FTP-75 by Mode (EPA Benchmarking)



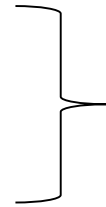
- deacFC becomes active after 110 s.
- deacFC advantage only present when FE is high (low engine load).

# deacFC Fly Zone on V8 (EPA benchmarking)

Used FTP-75, HWFET, US06 tests and MAP to quantify V8 deacFC fly zone.

Activate deacFC if all conditions are true:

- 1)  $T_{\text{coolant}} > 47.3^{\circ}\text{C}$
- 2) Engine speed  $> 940$  rpm
- 3) Gear = 2-6



ALPHA full vehicle model

# Full Vehicle Modeling

# ALPHA Full Vehicle Model of V8 Yukon

## ALPHA full vehicle model<sup>7</sup>

### Vehicle characteristics

Test weight=6000 lbs

Road load coefficients: A=32.15 lb, B=1.0382 lb/mph, C=0.02111 lb/mph<sup>2</sup>

### Engine

GM 4.3L LV3 engine<sup>8</sup> scaled to GM 6.2L L94 considering<sup>9</sup>:

Heat transfer

Friction

Knock propensity

Engine inertia=0.33 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (scaled based on displacement)

deacFC effectiveness curve from

a) EPA chassis tests

b) Tula engine tests

deacFC fly zone from EPA chassis tests

DFSO

allowed in deacFC mode

not allowed in V8 mode

### Torque converter

Locked

Semi-locked

26 rpm slip in V8 mode

55 rpm slip in deacFC

Unlocked

### Transmission

2014 GM 6L80 benchmarking<sup>3</sup>

Min. downshift speed=540 rpm

Min. upshift speed=1200 rpm

### Differential

3.42 ratio

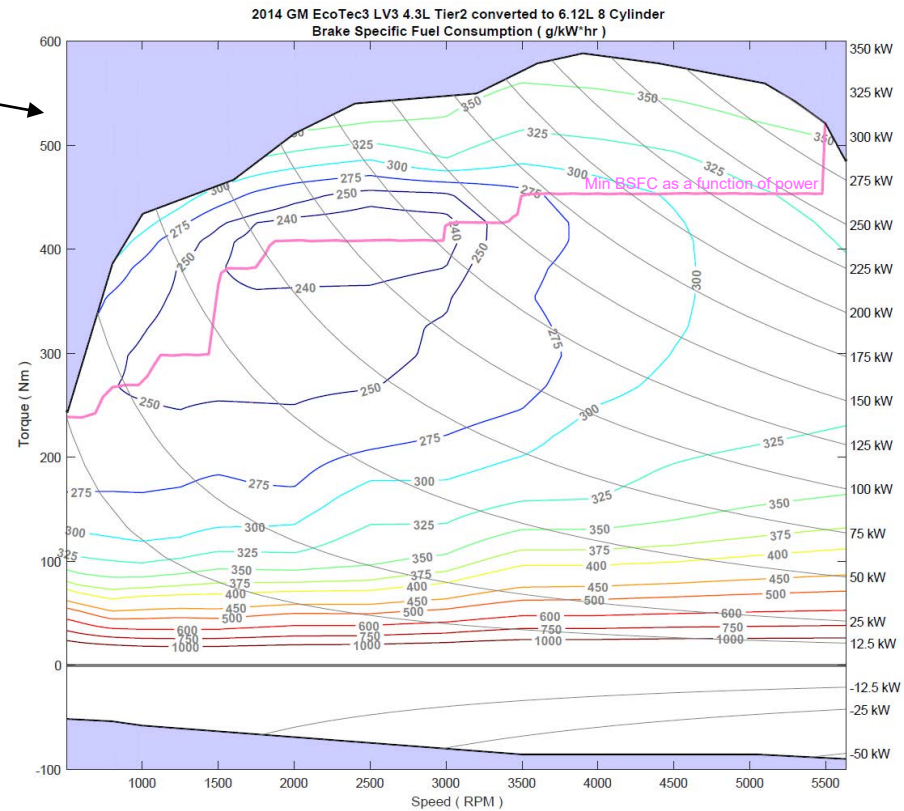
1999 Ford 3.55 differential/axle benchmarking<sup>4</sup>

### Tier 2 Fuel:

$\rho=0.74277 \text{ g/cm}^3 @ 60\text{F}$

H/C=1.836 molar ratio

LHV=42.898 MJ/kg



3) Stuhldreher et al., SAE 2017-01-5020  
4) EPA and SwRI, 1999, Contract No. 68-C7-0012  
7) Lee et al., SAE 2013-01-0808  
8) Stuhldreher, SAE 2016-01-0622  
9) Dekraker et al., SAE 2017-01-0899



# Chassis Tests and Full Vehicle Model – V8 Yukon

	<b>EPA chassis dyno</b>	<b>ALPHA model EPA chassis dyno effectiveness</b>
FTP-75	14.6 → 16.5 mpg 13%	14.7 → 16.5 mpg 13%
HWFET	25.0 → 27.5 mpg 10 %	24.9 → 27.5 mpg 11 %

- deacFC mode (with DFSO) compared to V8 mode (no DFSO)
- DFSO provides 2.5% benefit in FTP-75 and 1.2% in HWFET in V8 mode

	<b>Tula chassis dyno<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>ALPHA model Tula engine dyno effectiveness</b>
FTP-75	17%	18%
HWFET	9%	16%

- deacFC mode (with DFSO) compared to V8 mode (no DFSO)
- DFSO provides 2.5% benefit in FTP-75 and 1.2% in HWFET in V8 mode

# Combined Cycle Simulation Results

## 2011 Large SUV and 2025 Midsize Car

CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction (g/mi)  
Only Adding deacFC  
Combined Cycle

Vehicle

Description

2011 Large SUV

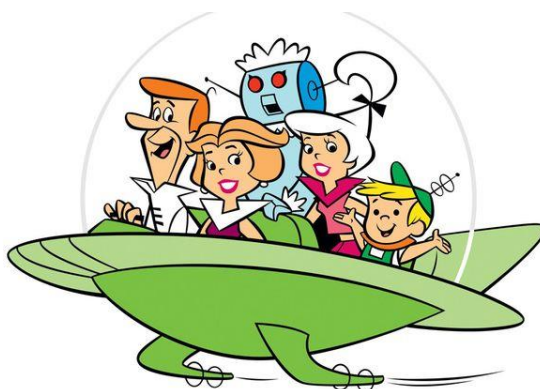


Photo by Tula

Vehicle: 2011 GM Yukon Denali  
Engine:  
2014 GM 4.3L LV3 scaled to 6.2L<sup>9</sup>  
DFSO  
no stop/start  
no AFM  
2011 GM Yukon accessories  
deacFC effectiveness from EPA chassis tests  
Transmission: 6-speed GM 6L80

**8.8%**

2025 Midsize Car



The Jetsons

Vehicle: typical 2016 midsize car<sup>10</sup> with:  
7.5% curb weight reduction  
10% aerodynamic improvement  
10% coefficient of rolling resistance reduction  
Engine:  
2016 Honda 1.5L L15B7 scaled to 1.42L<sup>9,10</sup>  
DFSO  
stop/start  
no CDA  
high efficiency accessories<sup>11</sup>  
deacFC effectiveness from EPA chassis tests, scaled to I4  
Transmission: future 8-speed<sup>11</sup>

**2.6%**

9) Dekraker et al., SAE 2017-01-0899  
10) Stuhldreher et al., SAE 2018-01-0319  
11) EPA, 2016, EPA-420-R-16-021

# Summary and Conclusions

Characterized deacFC effectiveness and fly zone

- Demonstration vehicle that met NVH and emissions constraints
- Benefit curves for I3, I4, V6, V8
- Fly zone

Conducted preliminary full vehicle modeling

- deacFC-equipped 6.2L Yukon
- Compared drive cycle efficiencies from chassis tests and full vehicle model
- Compared combined cycle CO<sub>2</sub> reduction for 2011 large SUV and 2025 midsize car

Based on this investigation, EPA considers deacFC to be a promising production-ready technology for reducing GHG emissions.

# Acknowledgements

## Tula Technology

Matthew Younkins and Sam Hashemi for providing Tula Yukon Denali test vehicle.

## EPA NVFEL

Scott Ludlam, Paul Burbage, Michael Matthews, Garrett Brown for chassis testing.

## EPA NCAT

Kevin Newman, Paul Dekraker, Dan Barba for ALPHA modeling and guidance.