

**Wheels:** What could a service technician check that could have an affect on fuel economy?

**Halderman:** The following are three items that a service technician can check to see if your vehicle may have a fault that could affect your fuel economy.

- **Thermostat** – If the thermostat is opening too soon or never closing correctly, the engine will use more fuel than normal resulting in a decrease of fuel economy of 4 to 5 mpg or more depending on how the vehicle is driven.
- **Evaporative Control System** – If there is a fault in the evaporative control system such as a faulty vacuum diaphragm on the charcoal canister can cause higher than normal fuel consumption and increased exhaust emissions. Again, a fault here can reduce fuel economy by 4 to 5 mpg or more.
- **Automatic Transmission/Transaxle** – A fault in the operation of the torque converter clutch could cause increased fuel consumption but this fault would likely only be noticeable when driving at highway speeds. If the torque converter clutch is not working a drop of 4 to 5 mpg on the highway could be expected.

