

December 29, 2010

John P. Reilly
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Hess Corporation
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

**Re: Hess Corporation
Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2009
Filed February 26, 2010
File No. 1-01204**

Dear Mr. Reilly:

We have limited our review of your filing to your contacts with countries that have been identified as state sponsors of terrorism, and we have the following comments. Our review with respect to this issue does not preclude further review by the Assistant Director group with respect to other issues. At this juncture, we are asking you to provide us with supplemental information, so that we may better understand your disclosure. Please be as detailed as necessary in your response. After reviewing this information, we may raise additional comments.

Please understand that the purpose of our review process is to assist you in your compliance with the applicable disclosure requirements and to enhance the overall disclosure in your filings. We look forward to working with you in these respects. We welcome any questions you may have about our comments or on any other aspect of our review. Feel free to call us at the telephone number listed at the end of this letter.

General

1. We note that your Form 10-K includes no information regarding direct or indirect contacts with countries identified by the State Department as state sponsors of terrorism. However, you disclose on page 6 of the Form 10-K that you hold an interest in the Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli oil and natural gas fields. We are aware of news reports indicating that Azerbaijan exports crude oil and natural gas to Iran from the Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli oil and natural gas fields. We also are aware of a news report indicating that you are engaged in joint exploration and development of oil shale resources in China with PetroChina, a company that has been the target of divestment and related efforts resulting from its parent company's operations in Sudan and Iran. Additionally, it appears that nationals of Sudan can make information requests on your website. Sudan and Iran are identified by the State Department as state sponsors of terrorism, and are subject to U.S. economic sanctions and export controls

Please describe to us the nature and extent of any past, present, and anticipated contacts

with Sudan and Iran, whether through subsidiaries, joint ventures, distributors, or other direct or indirect arrangements. Your response should describe any goods, services, technology, information, or support that you have provided into Sudan and Iran, directly or indirectly, and any agreements, commercial arrangements, or other contacts you have had with the governments of those countries or entities controlled by those governments.

2. Please discuss the materiality of your business activities in, and other contacts with, Sudan and Iran described in response to the foregoing comment, and whether they constitute a material investment risk for your security holders. You should address materiality in quantitative terms, including the approximate dollar amounts of any revenues, assets, and liabilities associated with each of the referenced countries for the last three fiscal years and the subsequent interim period. Also, address materiality in terms of qualitative factors that a reasonable investor would deem important in making an investment decision, including the potential impact of corporate activities upon a company's reputation and share value. As you know, various state and municipal governments, universities, and other investors have proposed or adopted divestment or similar initiatives regarding investment in companies that do business with U.S.-designated state sponsors of terrorism. Your materiality analysis should address the potential impact of the investor sentiment evidenced by such actions directed toward companies that have operations associated with Sudan or Iran.

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Please respond to these comments within 10 business days or tell us when you will provide us with a response. Please submit your response letter on EDGAR.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filings include all information required under the Exchange Act of 1934 and that they have provided all information investors require for an informed investment decision. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to the company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

In connection with responding to our comments, please provide, in writing, a statement from the company acknowledging that:

- the company is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filings;
- staff comments or changes to disclosure in response to staff comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filings; and

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- the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

In addition, please be advised that the Division of Enforcement has access to all information you provide to the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance in our review of your filings or in response to our comments on your filings.

Please understand that we may have additional comments after we review your response to our comments. Please contact Pradip Bhaumik, Special Counsel, at (202) 551-3333 if you have any questions about the comments or our review.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Blye, Chief
Office of Global Security Risk

cc: Roger Schwall
Assistant Director
Division of Corporation Finance