



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

January 28, 2010

Mr. Glenn A. Kleinert
President and Chief Executive Officer
McMoRan Exploration Co.
1615 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

**Re: McMoRan Exploration Co.
Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008
Filed February 27, 2009
File No. 0-07791**

Dear Mr. Kleinert:

We have completed our review of your 2008 Form 10-K, and do not, at this time, have any further comments.

Sincerely,

H. Roger Schwall
Assistant Director