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

DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

September 3, 2015

Mark K. Hardwick
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
First Merchants Corporation
200 East Jackson Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305

Re: First Merchants Corporation
Registration Statement on Form S-4
Filed August 26, 2015
File No. 333-206591

Dear Mr. Hardwick:

This is to advise you that we have not reviewed and will not review your registration statement.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Act of 1933 and all applicable Securities Act rules require. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

In the event you request acceleration of the effective date of the pending registration statement please provide a written statement from the company acknowledging that:

- should the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, declare the filing effective, it does not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing;

- the action of the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, in declaring the filing effective, does not relieve the company from its full responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing; and

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

Please refer to Rule 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We will consider a written request for acceleration of the effective date of the registration statement as confirmation of the fact that those requesting acceleration are aware of their respective responsibilities under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as they relate to the proposed public offering of the registered securities.

You may contact Jessica Livingston at 202-551-3448 with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kathryn McHale

Kathryn McHale
Senior Staff Attorney
Office of Financial Services I