



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

January 30, 2012

Via E-mail

Brian K. Ferraioli  
Chief Financial Officer  
The Shaw Group Inc.  
4171 Essen Lane  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

**Re: The Shaw Group Inc.  
Form 10-K for Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2011  
Filed October 31, 2011  
File No. 1-12227**

Dear Mr. Ferraioli:

We have completed our review of your filings. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filings and 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. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filings to be certain that the filings include the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tracey Smith  
for  
Terence O'Brien  
Accounting Branch Chief