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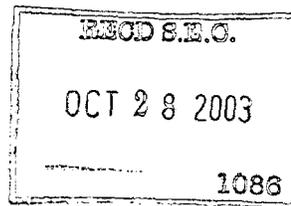
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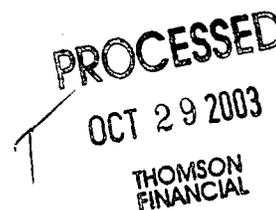
1-31825



October 28, 2003



Mr. Brian Johnson
Branch Chief
Securities and Exchange Commission
Branch of Filer Support 2
Room 1004 -- STOP/1-4
450 Fifth Street, NW
Judiciary Plaza
Washington, DC 20549



Dear Mr. Johnson:

The New York Stock Exchange certifies approval for listing and registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1933, The First Marblehead Corporation, Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share. The NYSE requests simultaneous acceleration of registration of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, together with the 1933 Act. Adequate distribution assured. Form 8-A received on October 28, 2003. Tentative listing date – October 31, 2003.

Sincerely,

Antonio Alberti

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