

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail  
Mail Stop 4720

July 31, 2009

Eugene G. Ballard  
Senior Vice President,  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
W. R. Berkley Corporation  
475 Steamboat Road  
Greenwich, CT

**Re: W. R. Berkley Corporation  
Form 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2008  
File No. 001-15202**

Dear Mr. Ballard:

We have completed our review of your Form 10-K and have no further comments at this time.

Sincerely,

Joel Parker  
Accounting Branch Chief