

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

DIVISION OF CORPORATION FINANCE

May 31, 2011

Mr. Roger B. Gorham Chief Financial Officer Alleghany Corporation 7 Times Square Tower, New York, New York 10036

> Re: Alleghany Corporation Form 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2010 Filed on February 25, 2011 File No. 001-09371

Dear Mr. Gorham:

We have completed our review of your filing. 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 filing 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 filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

Gus Rodriguez Accounting Branch Chief