



Office of the Secretary

United States of America
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20580

August 15, 2016

Ms. Julie Ann Racino
Community and Policy Studies

*Re: In the Matter of HeidelbergCement AG and Italcementi S.p.A.
File No. 151-0200, Docket No. C-4579*

Dear Ms. Racino:

Thank you for your comments regarding the proposed consent order accepted by the Federal Trade Commission for public comment in the above-captioned matter. The Commission has placed your comments on the public record pursuant to Rule 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 C.F.R. § 4.9(b)(6)(ii), and has given them careful consideration in connection with its decision concerning whether to accord final approval to the proposed consent order.

In determining the cement plants and terminals to be divested, the Commission analyzed the geographic markets where HeidelbergCement and Italcementi currently compete in the United States. In each market, we conducted a detailed, fact-specific evaluation of all of the circumstances. Based on that analysis, the Commission finds that the divestiture of the assets specified in the consent order will have the likely effect of maintaining or restoring competition in the affected markets.

In your comment, you expressed general concerns regarding alleged monopolies in sectors unrelated to those investigated in the above-captioned matter. The Federal Trade Commission is dedicated to enforcing the nation's antitrust laws, which form the foundation of our free market economy. The staff at the Federal Trade Commission work to promote the interests of consumers and seek all appropriate remedies when a transaction presents a risk of anticompetitive harm.

In light of these considerations, among others, the Commission has determined that issuing the Decision and Order in final form without modification best serves the public interest. A copy of the final Decision and Order is enclosed for your information. Relevant materials are also available from the Commission's website at <http://www.ftc.gov>. We appreciate your comments and interest in this matter.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark
Secretary