



## **Torus Strengthens US Presence with Senior Onshore Energy Appointment**

**July 8, 2009 - Hamilton Bermuda:** Torus Insurance, the global specialty insurer, has appointed Debbie Landes as Vice President, Senior Onshore Energy Underwriter, in its recently opened Houston office, with immediate effect. Landes will report to London-based Philip Sexton, head of Torus' Global Onshore Energy Practice. She joins Torus' Onshore Energy Engineering Practice Leader, Peter Wong, who has been in situ since April this year.

The Houston office will initially focus on onshore energy business but will diversify its offerings over the coming months. It represents further expansion of Torus' local "on the ground" service offering in the US, following the launch in May of Torus Specialty in New Jersey.

Landes, who has over 35 years property experience, most of which is in onshore energy, was most recently Regional Vice President of Arch Insurance Group where she managed the Houston Onshore Energy Branch Office. Prior to Arch she worked as a senior energy property underwriter for Zurich American Insurance Company and was a senior production underwriter at CIGNA/ACE.

Wong, who is a fire protection and safety engineer with over 32 years of risk control experience in the onshore energy industry, joined Torus from Markel Global Marine & Energy. He has held various positions with other primary insurance carriers and reinsurers including Liberty International Underwriters and Munich American Reinsurance Co.

Commenting on Torus' latest US developments, Philip Sexton said: 'Appointing the right VP, Senior Onshore Energy Underwriter in Houston was an important step in making our team's services more accessible for US brokers and their clients. Debbie's excellent track record in onshore energy underwriting in Texas made her the perfect choice to ensure this.'

Bob Klepper, Torus' President & Chief Underwriting Officer, Global Property, added: 'Now that Torus is firmly established in New Jersey, we're hiring key underwriters for the U.S. markets in which we've targeted to grow our lines of specialty business; Debbie's appointment is the first in a line of regional hires we intend to make to give clients and brokers local access to Torus' global resources.'

**ENDS**

***About Torus***

Torus provides specialty property and casualty insurance and reinsurance products to a global client base through its UK, US and Bermuda based insurance subsidiaries. Areas of expertise include complex property, energy, power, utility and construction as well as other highly engineered risk classes. Torus carries a group rating of A - (excellent) from A.M. Best and has capital in excess of US\$700 million provided by First Reserve Corporation.

***For media enquiries, please contact:***

Tim Fillingham, Chief Marketing Officer: +44 (0)20 3206 8206

Roddy Watt, College Hill: +44 (0)20 5457 2020