

SECTION IV



**Tennessee
Regulatory Authority**



TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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Sara Kyle, *Director*
Eddie Roberson, *Director*
Pat Miller, *Director*
Ron Jones, *Director*

The mission of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) is to promote the public interest by balancing the interests of utility consumers and providers while facilitating the transition to a more competitive environment.

The TRA was created to meet the challenge of the changing telecommunications and utility environment. The TRA is charged with the responsibility of setting the rates and establishing service standards of privately owned telephone, natural gas, electric, water, and sewer utilities. The agency also has safety jurisdiction over all natural gas utility providers.

The TRA was established on July 1, 1996, as a result of the 1995 sunset of the Tennessee Public Service Commission. The agency was originally headed by a three-member body appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House. A fourth member, appointed by joint agreement among the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House, was added by the General Assembly in 2002. Each director is appointed to a six-year term. The terms of the current directors will expire in 2008. The directors' terms will be staggered at that point, pursuant to statute. Every year one of the directors, elected by the four-member body, serves as chairman.

The staff of the TRA draws from various professional disciplines and includes accountants, administrators, attorneys, consumer specialists, economists, engineers, information systems and computer specialists, a media specialist, policy advisors, and office support.

The TRA is comprised of seven divisions: Utilities, Consumer Services, Economic Analysis and Policy, Gas Pipeline Safety, Information Technology, Legal, and Communications and External Affairs.

Director Sara Kyle
Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Shirley Frierson, Senior Policy Advisor
Thomas Pearson, Executive Assistant



Sara Kyle was born in 1952 near the Tri-Cities area of Upper East Tennessee just a few days before her uncle, the late Frank G. Clement, was elected to his first of three terms as governor of Tennessee. She attended Lincoln Elementary in Kingsport, and after moving to Middle Tennessee, graduated from Dickson High School. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Peery, she attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville before graduating from Austin Peay State University and teaching elementary school in Clarksville. She attended graduate courses at Middle Tennessee State University while teaching. She received her law degree in 1987, the same year she married Senator Jim Kyle (D-Memphis). She practiced law in the same firm with her husband and was an assistant public defender until she was elected to the Memphis City Court bench in 1991. A member of a family with a proud tradition of public service in elective office, she has studied the ways government relates to its citizens and worked to make that government and its agencies

and courts sensitive to the needs of its citizens. Director Kyle resigned from the bench in March 1994 to become a candidate for the Public Service Commission—a race in which she stressed a strong ethics and reform program as a way to restore public confidence in the commission. She was nominated on February 29, 1996 by House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh to become one of three members of the new Tennessee Regulatory Authority. She was reappointed by Speaker Naifeh in 2002 to serve another six-year term. The Kyles have four children and attend Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis. Long active in organizations promoting better government and public awareness, she is involved in numerous community and civic organizations. Additionally, she is a board member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), serving on the Communications Committee, and is past president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Director Eddie Roberson
Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Jean A. Stone, Senior Policy Advisor
Vicky Nelson, Executive Assistant



Eddie Roberson was born in 1952 in Nashville. Raised in the home of a minister, his family was transferred to Chattanooga in 1960. He attended Chattanooga public schools, graduating from Chattanooga High School in 1971 where he was voted Most Athletic. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with bachelor's and master's degrees. He received a Ph.D. in Public Administration from The Institute of Government at Tennessee State University in 1998. He is also a Rule 31 Mediator. While in Chattanooga, he was elected twice to the Chattanooga School Board and served as President of the Chattanooga Sertoma Club in 1988. Dr. Roberson was hired by the Public Service Commission (PSC), predecessor to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, in 1975. He was appointed as the PSC's Chief of Consumer Services and transferred to Nashville in 1989. He also served as the agency's executive director from 1995 to 1996. He was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2006 as director to the TRA. Dr. Roberson is active in the National

Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners where he formerly served as chair of the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and currently serves on the committees of Natural Gas, Consumer Affairs and Education and Research. Dr. Roberson lives in Hendersonville and is actively involved in the community and his church where he serves as an elder. He is a member of the Hendersonville Rotary Club where he is a Paul Harris Fellow and was elected club president for 2007-2008. He is married to the former Kathy Coxe of Chattanooga, and they have two daughters, Heather and Brooke.

Director Pat Miller

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Lisa Cooper, Senior Policy Advisor**Stacy Balthrop, Executive Assistant**

Pat Miller was born on February 11, 1958, in Nashville. After graduating from Father Ryan High School, he earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of Tennessee in 1983 and received his doctor of jurisprudence in 1988 from the Nashville School of Law. Director Miller served as a fiscal analyst for the Tennessee General Assembly's Fiscal Review Committee from 1987 to 1993 and as legislative liaison for the Tennessee Supreme Court from 1993 to 1997. He served as chief of staff to Senate Speaker and Lieutenant Governor John Wilder from 1997 to 2002, when he was appointed to a six-year term as a director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. He was elected to a one-year term as chairman of the TRA on July 1, 2004. Director Miller serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Electricity, the NARUC Committee on International Relations, and the NARUC Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues. He also serves on the board of directors for the Organization of PJM States, which monitors the electricity reliability and usage of the regional transmission organization in Tennessee and 13 other states. He is a member of the Tennessee Broadband Task Force, Tennessee Information Systems Council, and the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC). Director Miller and his wife Cindy live in Nashville and have two children, Caroline and Patrick. They are members of the Cathedral of the Incarnation Catholic Church.

**Director Ron Jones**

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Julie Woodruff, Senior Policy Advisor**Martha Tria, Executive Assistant**

Ron Jones was born in Harlem, New York City. He has completed several regulatory studies programs at Michigan State University Graduate School of Business. He attended St. John's University and earned a B.B.A. degree with distinction from Tennessee State University. He served the Tennessee Public Service Commission as a compliance auditor and financial analyst from 1986 to 1996. In 1996 Director Jones was engaged as a senior policy advisor to an original director of the newly created Tennessee Regulatory Authority, a position he held until 2002 when he was named to a six-year term as a director. Director Jones is chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Consumer Affairs Committee. He also is a member of the NARUC Board of Directors; NARUC Utility Market Access Partnership Board; and the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He also served as a member of the NARUC Telecommunications Legislative Task Force; NARUC representative to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Consumer Advisory Committee; and on the State Regulatory Advisory Council for the FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age. Director Jones is most proud of his work as a coach/volunteer at the East Nashville YMCA, as a former member of the board of directors of the Village Cultural Arts Center Inc., as a volunteer to the Youth Life Learning Center, vice chair of the Opportunities Industrialization Center, and as founder of the Center for Equal Technology Access. Director Jones has organized and moderated a number of presentations and panel discussions on telecommunications, technology, and consumer energy issues. He has also testified on Caller ID spoofing before a U.S. Senate committee. Director Jones has also appeared on CNN's Paula Zahn Now show and CSPAN on behalf of consumer issues.

