

SECTION IV



**Tennessee
Regulatory Authority**



TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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www.tennessee.gov/tra

Ron Jones, Director

Sara Kyle, Director

Deborah Taylor Tate, Director

Pat Miller, 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.

Established on July 1, 1996, as a result of the 1995 sunset of the Tennessee Public Service Commission, the TRA 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 at which time, pursuant to statute, the terms will be staggered. Every year one of the directors, elected by the four-member body, serves as chairperson.

The TRA comprises six divisions: Utilities, Consumer Services, Competitive Markets and Policy, Gas Pipeline Safety, Information Systems, and Legal.

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.

Director Ron Jones

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Julie Woodruff, Senior Policy Advisor

Martha Tria, Executive Assistant

Ron Jones was born October 4, 1951, Harlem, New York City; Episcopal; Three children, Jay, Khalid, and Grant; Completed several regulatory studies programs at Michigan State University Graduate School of Business; Attended St. John's University; Graduate, Tennessee State University, B.B.A. with distinction; Began State public service, 1986-1996, with the Tennessee Public Service Commission; Senior Policy Advisor, Tennessee Regulatory Authority, 1996-2002; Appointed to a six-year term as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, 2002; Chairman, Consumer Affairs Committee, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); NARUC Board of Directors; NARUC Utility Market Access Partnership Board; NARUC Telecommunications Legislative Task Force; NARUC Representative to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Consumer Advisory Committee; State Regulatory Advisory Council for the FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age; Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Chairman Jones is most proud of his work as a coach/volunteer at the East Nashville YMCA, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Village Cultural Arts Center Inc., and as a volunteer to The Youth Life Learning Center.



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, Tennessee, 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 House Speaker Jimmy 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 Deborah Taylor Tate

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Holly Rachel Smith, Senior Policy Advisor

Mary Ellen Tate, Executive Assistant



Deborah Taylor Tate was born in 1956 in Columbia, TN, and was raised in Murfreesboro, TN. She attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and received her B. A. (1977) and J.D. (1980). She also attended Middle Tennessee State University and the Vanderbilt University Law School. Licensed to practice law (1980); Member of the Nashville Bar Association; Fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation; Lawyers Association for Women; and Rule 31-approved Mediator. Tate formerly served as an attorney and senior policy advisor for Governor Lamar Alexander and Governor Don Sundquist. Other state roles included Executive Director, Health Facilities Commission; Juvenile Justice Commission; and Mental Health-Title 33 Commission. Tate also practiced family and juvenile law and was often appointed by the Court as a Guardian ad Litem for children. In 2002, Tate was appointed and currently is serving a six-year term at the TRA. She served as Chairman in 2003-04. She is a member of the FCC Federal-State Joint Board on Advanced Telecommunications Services; National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Consumer Affairs and Gas Committees; Chairman, Washington Action Committee; and the American Public Gas Association Security and Integrity Foundation Board of Directors. Tate is the Chairman of the Board of Centerstone Inc. and Co-founder and former President of Renewal House. Previous board service has included leadership positions on: Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Tennessee Pediatric Society Foundation, Family and Children's Services, Junior League of Nashville, Martha O'Bryan Center and Foundation, Tennessee Voices for Children, Tennessee Tomorrow Inc., Women's Fund, and League of Women Voters. She is an Elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church, married to William Howard Tate and has three children, William, Taylor and Carlton.

Director Pat Miller

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

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

Pat Miller was born February 11, 1958, Nashville, TN; Married to Cynthia C. Miller; Two Children, Caroline and Patrick; Catholic; B.A., Political Science, University of Tennessee, 1983; J.D., Nashville School of Law, 1988; Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Review Committee, 1987-1993; Legislative Liaison, Tennessee Supreme Court, 1993-1997; Served as Chief of Staff to the Lt. Governor and Speaker of the Senate, 1997-2002; Appointed to a six-year term as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority by Lt. Governor John S. Wilder, July 1, 2002; Elected, and served as, Chairman of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

