



# BESS RICKMAN

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT – SOUTHEAST VALLEY TENNESSEE

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## Team Leader

**“Assisting rural communities in their economic development efforts is particularly rewarding to me. I take pleasure in working with local, regional and state partners to attract new job opportunities and retain existing ones within my territory. Economic development definitely requires a collective effort, and I’m proud to be part of the team in the Upper Cumberland region.”**

Bess Rickman is a regional development consultant with TVA Economic Development, serving 17 counties in the Southeast Valley region. She works with local power companies, community leaders, and state and regional economic development partners to attract and retain jobs and capital investment.

Before becoming a regional development consultant, Rickman served TVA as an economic investments consultant for the Valley Investment Initiative (VII). Her territory included Kentucky and West Tennessee.

Prior to joining TVA in 2011, Rickman worked for the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce in their economic development department. She worked with existing industries and also assisted in the recruitment of new companies to the county.

Rickman also worked at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., as a special assistant to the deputy chiefs of protocol. In this role, Rickman served as a liaison to 186 foreign embassies in the Washington area and helped to carry out programs for visiting chiefs of state and heads of government.

Rickman holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Middle Tennessee State University. She is also a graduate of the Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course and TVA’s Rural Leadership Institute. Rickman resides in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

## Economic Development Team Achievements

Site Selection Named TVA One of Top Utilities for ED Nine Years in a Row

Nashville Business Journal Named TVA ED One of Nashville’s Best Places to Work

## Personal Achievements

Graduate of both the Basic Economic Development Course and TVA’s Rural Leadership Institute

## Five Fast Facts

1. Interned at the White House
2. Kissed on the cheek by President George H.W. Bush
3. Took ballet lessons for 14 years
4. Spent time in Switzerland as a high school exchange student
5. Enjoys target practice at the range