STEPHEN SURLES

SENIOR MANAGER, GLOBAL BUSINESS

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Overseeing the Regional Development Team

"When I help a collection of people unselfishly unite, develop a vision and implement a plan resulting in a project that enhances the quality of life for the area they represent, that's when I love my job."

Stephen Surles oversees management of the regional development and technical services team to ensure all goals meet or exceed agency standards throughout the seven-state TVA service area. These goals include assisting prospective and existing industries, facilitating financial services and helping communities support and grow local businesses. His regional development team also works with TVA partners to implement community preparedness programs, deliver resources and technical assistance and coordinate TVA's marketing and business development efforts.

Surles previously served as a regional development specialist with TVA Economic Development in Mississippi, where he supported local power companies, the Mississippi Development Authority and regional and local economic development organizations.

Before coming to TVA, Surles was executive director of the Union County (Mississippi) Development Association. Surles previously served as president and chief executive officer of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and executive director of the Monroe County Council of Governments in Aberdeen and Amory, Mississippi.

During his tenure in Union and Monroe counties, he earned recognition as a member of an elite group of developers across the country by facilitating more than $650 million in capital investment and 1,500 new jobs.

A native of Albany, Georgia, Surles earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Troy University in Alabama and a master's in economic development from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Stephen lives near Nashville with his wife and two children.

Economic Development Team Achievements

Since 2006, Site Selection has Named TVA One of Top Utilities in ED

Nashville Business Journal Named TVA ED One of Nashville's Best Places to Work three years in a row

Five Fast Facts

1. **Pit master**
2. **Drag racer**
3. **In the Albany, Georgia, Sports Hall of Fame**
4. **Holds a master's degree in economic development**
5. **Spent time in the Netherlands as part of a college exchange program**

THE VALLEY WORKS TVA