Brian Vance will continue to lead the Richland Operations Office and the Office of River Protection at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash. Energy Secretary Rick Perry notified Congress on October 15 that Vance would serve in that role on a permanent basis. Vance had been serving as acting leader of both offices during an eight-month trial run.

Gregory Sosson has been named acting manager of the Department of Energy’s Carlsbad Field Office, which oversees operations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. He replaces Kirk Lachman, who has returned to his role as deputy manager. Sosson was previously the associate deputy assistant secretary for field operations oversight and chief of nuclear safety for the DOE’s Office of Environmental Management.

Thong Hang, a senior fellow engineer at Savannah River National Laboratory, has been named a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Hang was recognized for 30 years of contributions in the fields of chemical process engineering and computational modeling. Hang is currently involved in the Savannah River Site tank closure project, primarily focused on the Tank Closure Cesium Removal Process.

John Starkey has joined the American Nuclear Society as director of government relations. Starkey previously served as a public policy specialist at the Bose Public Affairs Group, where he worked closely with Craig Piercy, ANS’s new executive director and chief executive officer. Prior to joining Bose, Starkey worked for Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R., Alaska) and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which Murkowski chairs. Starkey will be based in Washington, D.C.