

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Nitrogen in Agricultural Systems: Implications for Environmental Policy

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Nitrogen is an important agricultural input that is critical for providing enough food to feed a growing world population. However, the introduction of large amounts of reactive nitrogen into the environment has a number of undesirable impacts on water, terrestrial, and atmospheric resources. Careful management could better balance nitrogen inputs with the needs of crops, reducing losses to the environment. A variety of policy instruments exist for improving nutrient management in agriculture so that environmental externalities are reduced. This report explores the use of nitrogen in U.S. agriculture, and assesses the improvements most needed to improve nitrogen use efficiency. It reviews a number of policy approaches for improving nitrogen management, and identifies important issues affecting each policy's potential performance.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 07/06/10 End: 08/09/10 Completed: 12/09/10

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
How:
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

