Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Climate Change Policy and the Adoption of Methane Digesters on Livestock

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB): ERR

[X] Influential Scientific Information

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

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

Subject of Review: Biogas recovery systems that use methane from manure to generate electricity have not been widely adopted in U.S. mainly because the costs of these systems have exceeded the benefits they provide to operators. Proposed climate change legislation could create a carbon offset market allowing livestock producers to earn revenue from burning manure methane. However, there is likely to be wide variation in the scale, location and characteristics of operations that would benefit, which could have long-run structural implications for the livestock sector. In addition, the extent of participation in offset markets will help determine the supply and price of carbon offsets and hence the costs that "capped" industries face in meeting emissions targets. This study develops an economic model that illustrates how dairy and hog operation size, location and manure management methods and electricity and carbon offset prices influence methane digester profits.

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

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 09/13/10　End: 11/02/10　Completed: 11/18/10

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

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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