

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Carbon Offset Markets and the Adoption of Methane Digesters on Dairy and Hog Farms

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB Influential Scientific Information

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

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 the U.S. mainly because the costs of constructing and maintaining these systems have exceeded the value of the benefits provided to the operator. Proposed climate change legislation would create a new carbon offset market that could allow livestock producers to earn revenue from burning methane from manure. Depending on the future price of carbon and energy, income from carbon offset sales could make biogas recovery facilities profitable for a large number of livestock producers. This brief outlines the main determinants of producers' decisions to adopt biogas recovery systems, and illustrates how the price of carbon influences this decision.

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 Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

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

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

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

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

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

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



