

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Broadband Internet's Value for Rural America

Type of Report  
(ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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Subject of Review: Broadband Internet is becoming an increasingly important part of everyday work and home activities. However, Internet access through a broadband connection is neither universal. Rural access, in particular, has been a policy concern—leading policymaker to inquire about the economic impact of not having broadband service on rural communities and their growth, community facilities, access to healthcare, and well-being. Drawing on ERS research and an ERS-organized research workshop on broadband Internet in rural America, this report addressed these questions by: (1) modeling broadband use by consumers, the community-at-large, and rural businesses; (2) modeling rural broadband availability, and (3) modeling broadband effects on rural areas.

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: 03/23/09 End: 04/22/09 Completed: 06/11/09

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