

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Influence of Changing Commodity Prices on the Conservation reserve Program

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) Economic Research Report

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

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

Subject of Review: We consider possible impacts on the Conservation Reserve Program of commodity price changes. Two complementary models are used: a *Long-term* model that uses National Resources Inventory data to simulate offers to the CRP, and an *Opt-out* model that simulates retention of current CRP contracts. We focus on 3 scenarios: (1) continuation of current prices, which are well above prices prevalent when most CRP contracts were enrolled, (2) predicted prices due to an increase in biofuels production to 15 billion gallons, and (3) very high prices similar to those observed in the summer of 2008. These scenarios are considered both with and without increases in CRP rental rates.

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: 05/26/10 End: 07/15/10 Completed: 09/02/10

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