Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Additionality in U.S. Agricultural Conservation and Regulatory Offset Programs

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

[X] Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

[ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: *Additionality* refers to the role of conservation program payments (e.g., cost-sharing or incentives) in conservation practice adoption, agricultural input use, or land use and the related environmental benefits. The actions that payments support are "additional" only if they produce environmental benefits that would ***not*** have been achieved in the absence of a payment. In this report, we estimate additionality for selected conservation practices that are frequently supported through existing conservation payment programs. We also estimate additionality for a hypothetical emission credit market that could allow businesses regulated under a (hypothetical) greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program to purchase emission reduction credits from unregulated farmers. We discuss a number of approaches to managing non-additionality in both conservation payment programs and offset programs.

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: 5/24/13 End: 12/2/13 Completed: 12/2/13

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