

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Effects of Energy Price Shocks on Household Food Security on Low-Income Populations

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

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

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Subject of Review: This paper examines how price shocks of energy resources including gasoline and heating fuel (natural gas and electricity) affect three indicators of food distress, or food access problems, at a household level. Using the Current Population Survey-Food Security Supplement combined with energy price data from the Energy Information Administration, we find that positive price shocks in gas and natural gas increase the probability of food access problems while negative price shocks of natural gas and electricity decrease the probability these problems. The largest effects occurred with negative heating fuel price shocks in the low income and cold state-residing low-income subgroups. This may indicate these households are already facing obstacles in accessing food and only when negative energy price shocks is this alleviated. It may also indicate that social welfare programs such as LIHEAP and SNAP may want to consider provisions for unexpected energy price changes that could affect food access and expenditure.

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: 10/13/16 End: 3/13/17 Complete: 3/13/17

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