

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Dedicated Energy Crops and Competition for Agricultural Land

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

ERR

Influential Scientific Information

Agency:
Economic Research Service
USDA

Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Ephraim Leibtag, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: There is the possibility of a significant increase in U.S. demand for combustible biomass to generate electricity, including crops grown solely for their energy content, depending on future energy or climate policies. Two economic models are used in this study: the Future Agricultural Resources Model (FARM) provides a global platform with the ability to simulate alternative energy and climate policies, while the Regional Environment and Agriculture Programming (REAP) model provides finer detail on crops and land use in the U.S. The central scenario, a Renewable Portfolio Standard for the U.S., provides an economic incentive for bio-electricity generation using forest residue and switchgrass as feedstocks. An alternative scenario, with carbon dioxide cap-and-trade, combines bio-electricity with carbon dioxide capture and storage (BECCS) as a negative-emissions technology to meet an aggressive cap on emissions. In both models, switchgrass competes in land markets with other crops, pasture, and managed forests.

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: 08/17/15 End: 03/31/16 Completed: 03/31/16

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

