ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Development in Rural Areas: Land Cover Change (2009-2020)

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

[X] Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

[ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: Expanding renewable energy development from solar and wind can help meet the nation's growing electricity demand while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and delivering benefits to rural communities. Large, commercial solar and wind developments are predominantly located in rural areas of the United States. Subsidies for renewable energy and other policies directed at decarbonizing the electricity grid are forecast to lead to dramatic growth in renewable capacity in the coming years, requiring a better understanding of the potential influence of solar and wind development in rural areas. Although solar and wind generation both reduce GHG emissions, solar or wind resources are unevenly distributed across the nation. Solar potential is highest across the Southwest and much of the Southeast, while wind resources are concentrated in the Plains and Midwest. Furthermore, solar requires more land than wind per unit of electricity, but wind turbines alter the view over a larger area due to their height.

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: 3/13/2023   Completed: 09/21/2023

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

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