Attachment 2A(1)

Explanatory Note for USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Report
May 2, 2011

This report reflects the NEPA status and progress for all ARS ARRA funded projects and activities through March 31, 2011.

ARS increased its obligation total by $1,163,479 over last quarter's report. With the exception of the obligation total, this report has not changed from the last quarterly report (January 2011). In summary, all NEPA reviews were completed by December 15, 2009 for the 38 ARS ARRA originally-funded projects and activities. Due to favorable bids on some of the projects, ARS was able to fund three additional critical deferred maintenance projects. These projects were added to the July 2010 ARS ARRA 1609 Report. One project was for critical deferred maintenance of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems of Building 306 at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), Beltsville, Maryland (see Row 39). The NEPA review for Building 306 was completed on May 5, 2010. The other two projects were not subject to NEPA. They involve minor operational changes to ensure the facilities operate in accordance with design intent and optimal efficiency. One facility is located in Poplarville, Mississippi; the other in Beltsville, Maryland (BARC-Building 010A). No entries were made for those two projects on page 2 of the ARS ARRA 1609 Report.

Page 1 of the ARS report indicates an obligation total of $172,806,594 reported to OMB which differs from the total available funds reported on Recovery.gov. The figure on Recovery.gov appears to include grant money from the National Institutes of Health for the ARS Obesity and Metabolism Research Lab in Davis, California.

Because all ARRA funded projects are critical deferred maintenance projects, benefits provided by the NEPA analysis would not be applicable. Nonetheless, the most energy-efficient equipment will be obtained to replace the old equipment.

Ms. Corinne R. Grim will serve as the Agency's point of contact. She can be reached at 301-504-1249, or cori.grim@ars.usda.gov. Should clarification be needed, please contact her.

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