

## **Attachment 2A(1)**

### **Explanatory Note for USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Report August 2, 2010**

The Agricultural Research Service is providing the following report to the Council on Environmental Quality regarding actions and activities funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This report reflects the NEPA status and progress for all ARS ARRA funded projects and activities through June 30, 2010.

The fifth report (May 2010) indicated that all NEPA reviews were completed for the 38 ARS ARRA funded projects and activities by December 15, 2009. Favorable bids on some of these projects allowed ARS to fund three additional critical deferred maintenance projects. These projects are reflected in this quarter's report.

One project was for major renovations of Building 306 at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), Beltsville, Maryland to address deferred maintenance of critical mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems (Row 39). A categorical exclusion review for Building 306 was completed on May 5, 2010. The other two projects that were added are for minor operational changes to ensure the facilities are operating in accordance with design intent and optimal efficiency, and are not subject to NEPA. One facility is located in Poplarville, Mississippi; the other in Beltsville, Maryland (BARC-Building 010A). No entries were made for these two projects on page 2 of the report.

Page 1 of the report indicates an obligation total of \$107,217,789 reported to OMB which differs from the total available funds reported on Recovery.gov. This is most likely due to the recent contracts awarded at the end of this reporting period.

Because all ARRA funded projects are critical deferred maintenance projects, the most energy-efficient equipment will be obtained to replace the old equipment.

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