Peer Review Plan

Title of Review:	Review of Evaluation of the Birth Month Breastfeeding Changes to the WIC Food Packages, Final Report	[X]	**Influential Scientific Information**
Agency:	Food and Nutrition Service, USDA	[ ]	**Highly Influential Scientific Assessment**

Agency Contact: Rich Lucas, Office of Research, Nutrition and Analysis (703-305-2017)

Subject of Review: Review of study Final Report

Purpose of Review: Subject the information to formal, independent, external peer review to ensure its objectivity.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 10/2010 End: 12/2010 Completed:

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review:
(1) Research methodology and statistical analysis (2) Knowledge of the operation of the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children and (3) Knowledge of factors influencing breastfeeding initiation, duration, and intensity.

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

Other: See next page.

The final report is expected to be a large, complex document. Six reviewers will be charged with two tasks as follows:

1. Reviewers will be requested to determine if (i) the data collection as implemented was appropriate, (ii) whether the analyses as carried out reflect the original plans and (iii) whether the analyses are appropriate given the actual implementation of sampling and data collection.

2. Reviewers will be charged with evaluating the clarity of hypotheses, the robustness of the methods employed to address the hypotheses, the appropriateness of the methods for the hypotheses being tested, the extent to which the conclusions follow from the analysis, and the strengths and limitations of the overall conclusions. The peer reviewers will be requested, as appropriate, to suggests ways to clarify assumptions, findings, and conclusions; identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; and, if needed, encourage authors to more fully acknowledge limitations and uncertainties.

All six peer reviewers will be informed that the Agency does not have funds to make changes that require additional data collection, reconsideration of the research design, or significant modifications to data collection and analysis methods. The reviewers will be informed that the Agency, while it will welcome recommendations that may improve the design of other WIC breastfeeding studies, requires an evaluation of the current product that is cognizant of the funding constraints.

Each reviewer will be instructed to supply the results of their review in written form. Because this study is considered influential scientific information, reviewers will be informed that the Agency is required to make available to the public the written charge to the peer reviewers, the peer reviewers' names, the peer reviewers' reports, and the agency's response to the peer reviewers' reports.