

### Peer Review Recommendations

Each reviewer is instructed to clearly identify his/her recommendations and provide a rationale for each recommendation. The intent of these peer reviews is to improve project plans. Thus, it is reasonable to expect the majority of the peer reviews to contain more recommendations than general comments and compliments. ARS must reasonably consider accepting all peer review recommendations. Recommendations that are not accepted require a justification. (See Exhibit 4: Sample Peer Review Recommendations and ARS Response.)

Panel or ad hoc peer review recommendations will not result in a redirection of Agency funds from or to an ARS research activity. However, allocated discretionary funding for a specific research project plan may be suspended until the research project plan has been determined by Area Directors and/or the Deputy Administrator of the National Program Staff to meet quality requirements.

**Comments  
for Section 11  
Peer Review Recommendations**