

## ***Interactive comment on “An assessment of atmospheric mercury in the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) model” by T. Holloway et al.***

**T. Holloway et al.**

taholloway@wisc.edu

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Dear Editor,

We very much appreciate the comments offered by Referee 1 and others to improve the paper. Many of Referee 1's comments – especially clarifying the scope of the paper, adding suggested references, and expanding discussion of key points – will yield a much improved manuscript.

However, Referee 1 offers one major criticism that is unfair. He or she refers to the "fatal flaw" of the paper is not using data from the AMNet database. These data are only available from 2009 onward, and our modeling study commenced prior to 2009. Thus, we employ 2003 meteorology with 2002 emissions, and we focus our analysis on

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the two sites for which long term speciated mercury concentrations were available at that time. Although we conducted a 36 km x 36 km simulation, as noted by the reviewer, all results presented in the paper derive from a nested 12 km x 12 km simulation over the Upper Midwestern U.S. We fully agree that the title of the paper should clarify this regional focus.

We look forward to revising the paper in response to comments from Anonymous Referees, those contributed by Helen Amos, as well as forthcoming comments. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best Regards, Tracey Holloway

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 12, 2131, 2012.

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