

Dear Sirs,

The effects of Forbush decreases on Antarctic climate variability: a re-assessment
Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, 10575-10596, 2009

We extend our unreserved apologies for the mistakes that have arisen with regard to the proposed withdrawal of the above manuscript. Our primary motivations for requesting a withdrawal are twofold. Firstly, and most significantly we are unable to meet the requested publication fees. Secondly, in response to the reviewers' comments of the interactive discussion paper, an in-depth review of statistical procedures and software was undertaken with the aim of improving and strengthening the results. During this review an error was found in a program used to calculate anomalous cloud cover changes. Immediately following the identification of this error we reacted swiftly to avoid publication of the conclusions (which may have been unsafe) and requested an immediate withdrawal of the manuscript.

Although we are confident that the basic premise of the paper remains sound, we are grateful for the insightful comments of the reviewers that led to our revisiting the datasets and the realisation that our application of statistical rigour did not meet the highest standards required. As such, we are now in the process of developing the science further and will rewrite the manuscript accordingly.

It was requested by the editor that a point-by-point reply to the interactive comments be made. A reply of this nature has already been made to the interactive comments posted by anonymous referee #1 (which in fact relate to earlier draft of the paper, rather than the manuscript referenced above). In view of our uncertainty over the current set of results, any reply to the comments posted by anonymous referee #2 would now be rendered largely irrelevant, given that the analysis of our datasets will now be completely revisited.

We thank you for your continued understanding in this matter and apologise once again for the inconvenience.

With kind regards,

Benjamin Laken