

All comments considered that weather conditions “were not observed on April 15, 2001” do not correspond to the real weather situation at that time.

1. According to the official meteorological data [<http://meteo.infospace.ru>] during 15.04.2001 never it was detected so called “drifting snow” (in Russian “metel”, “zanosi”) and “snowstorms” (in Russian “metel”, “purga”). At 00.00 GMT and 06.00 there were no any specific meteorological phenomena at all. At 12.00 and 18.00 it was detected very weak “pozemka” – blizzard accompanied by very weak ground wind. Wind velocity was equal to 3m/s that time. The average wind velocity was 4 m/s.

Moreover taking into account that our measurement site was located at the distance of about 3-3.5 km from the nearest meteorological station we watched very carefully for any snow and precipitation phenomena. In the case of their appearance all Ez measurements would have been immediately stopped. However, during our measurements we have not detected such events.

2. The author of comments very shortly mentioned that during the period analyzed “The cloud base was about 450 m”. It is again wrong. The cloud base at 00.00 was 3000 m, at 06.00 it was 1750 m, at 12.00 it was again 3000 m, and only at 18.00 (after nearly all the period analyzed) it was 450 m.

3. For the all period analyzed the official meteorological data on wind velocity were 5 m/s at 00.00, 6 m/s at 06.00, 3 m/s at 12.00 (close to the maximum of the event considered) and at 18.00 it was again 3 m/s. Our own wind velocity measurements aside of Ez measurement point again demonstrate that at 00.00 15.04.2001 wind velocity was about 1 m/s, then it step-by-step increases up to 5 m/s at noon, and then step-by-step decreases up to 1.5 m/s to the end of day. Again at such very slow wind velocity one could hardly expect of any “snowstorm”.

4. The data from the other neighbour meteorological station at airport (~ 14 km from our site) demonstrate the similar situation. The cloud bases were 2400 m at 06.00, and at 12.00 wind velocity was about 6 m/s.

Taking all above mentioned we consider that fair weather conditions at 15.04.2001 were observed and all critical remarks inconsistent and are slightly juggled.