

Interactive comment on “Changing sources and environmental factors reduce the rates of decline of organochlorine pesticides in the Arctic Atmosphere” by S. Becker et al.

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Thank you for your kind comments on this paper. We too have seen an influence on atmospheric concentrations of certain contaminants from climatic oscillations. In fact, we found a statistically significant link between the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) for alpha-HCH at Zeppelin, Norway (Becker et al, 2008, Atmospheric Environment 42, 8225-8233). This same link was not seen at the Canadian Arctic station of Alert. Indeed, work carried out by Ma et al (2004, Journal of Geophysical Research 19, D12305 and 2004, Environmental Science and Technology 38, 2538-2543) found that the PNA (Pacific/North American climate pattern) and the East Asian jet stream had more of an influence than the NAO. It is unusual to get a long enough data set, which has samples taken at short enough intervals with which to test the influence of climatic oscillations

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and it is something that I feel should be looked into in greater detail. In this case, I believe that the NAO and the Arctic oscillation would have more influence on this site, considering the geography. It would be interesting to see if the Canadian Arctic sites are affected by the PDO though.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, 515, 2009.

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