

Interactive comment on “Black carbon (BC) in North Tibetan Mountain; Effect of Kuwait fires on glacier” by Jiamao Zhou et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript studies the BC deposition and its radiative effect on the snow cover in the northern Tibetan Plateau. Two sets of measurements were used in this study, which included the air samplings of BC particles during 2004-2006 and the ice core drillings of BC deposition during 1986-1994. These data are very interesting and valuable. In addition, two numerical models are used in this study to analyze the data, including; a global chemical transportation model (MOZART-4) and a radiative transfer model (SNICAR). Their analysis shows that there is a high peak of BC deposition at Muztagh Ata in Northern Tibetan Plateau during 1991-1992 (about 3-4 times higher than other years), caused by the large Kuwait fires at the end of the first Gulf War in 1991. This result suggests that the upward BC emissions had important impacts on this remote site located in Northern Tibetan Plateau. The radiative effect calculated by the radiative

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transfer model (SNICAR) shows that a significant increase for the snow melting in Northern Tibetan Plateau due to this fire event. This study is suitable for the scientific scope of ACP, and can be accepted for the publication in ACP. However, there are some minor comments, which should be addressed in the revised version;

Comments; (1) The Authors define 4 BC source regions, which could have important impacts on the BC deposition at the remote site located in Northern Tibetan Plateau. They should make more detailed description for the definition of these 4 regions. (2) The Authors have detailed description for the ice core drill measurements. However, the description of TSP is rather too simple. More descriptions of the TSP should be required. (3) The quality of Fig. 6 should be improved. The labels are too small. (4) There are some English typos. For example, in the line 297, Page 9, “In order to the effect of the huge Kuwait fires on the BC ice core deposition” should be “In order to study the effect of the huge Kuwait fires on the BC ice core deposition”

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