

The manuscript by Ivana Kolmasova and colleagues analyses lightning occurrences over the northern Atlantic and the North Sea during the winter season 2014/2015. It is found that intense lightning discharges, named superbolts, are predominantly found at nighttime in the morning hours as single stroke flashes. The manuscript is extremely well written, easy to follow, logically constructed and the figures support the text. The content of the paper is enjoyable to read. Particularly interesting is the explanation of the authors how the North Atlantic Oscillation might have contributed to the production of more severe electrified storms when compared to other meteorological processes that produce abundant lightning. Although not specifically mentioned in the manuscript, the findings might have a significant impact by informing lightning protection measures for the rapidly increasing number of wind turbines in the North Sea and existing oil platforms. As a result, I have only a few very minor comments to improve the quality of the manuscript which the authors might want to consider prior to publication.

- (1)I119 - Explain what is meant by 'huge'. Relatively large spatial scale or long duration, or both, or number of customers affected?
- (2)I129 - The excellent and exhaustive literature review could be supplemented by a recent publication from Ripoll et al., in Nature Communications, 2021, for comparison.
- (3)I142 - Clarify whether the ~70 stations existed now, or already in 2014/2015.
- (4)I163 - Add the southern boundary and explain why an extension to 60 deg East is of interest, which seems far from the northern Atlantic and the North Sea. Use 9,066 and 53,182.
- (5)I167 - Clarify what is dangerous about superbolts, when compared to lightning protection guidelines, if that is what is meant.
- (6)I168 - 10,742
- (7)I252 - Replace the acronym 'TD' by thunderstorm days, to enhance readability.
- (8)I272 - change
- (9)I301 - Explain in one sentence what the NAO index measures for the unfamiliar reader.