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Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences
Discussions

Interactive comment on "Reconstruction of the 1945 Wieringermeer Flood" *by* O. A. C. Hoes et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This work shows, in essence, the application of a commercial model of plain flood calibrated with historical data. In my opinion it is a good technical application, but it provides no new significant element neither to the knowledge nor to the methodologies for the assessment of the dynamics of flooding due to breakage of embankments. Authors say "the breach growth process and the flood propagation are explained" but the observed dynamics does not introduce specific new insights. There is neither an evolution of the software nor a satisfactory critical analysis of the possible limitations of the method applied. In the abstract it is stated that they address "uncertainty that follows from not knowing the breach growth parameters" but in the paper I cannot find a clear description or an attempt to quantify the effect of this uncertainty on the simulation.

The paper dwells much on the description of the event, interesting from a historical

perspective but, I think, beyond the scope of this journal. Limited to a few lines and one figure the description of the simulation. In addition, the text mentions "validation" but in fact, from what I understand from the text, the simulation was performed using the historical data for calibration. So I think that this paper is not suitable for publication in this journal and I recommend the authors to look for a journal oriented towards the publication of historical information on hazard and risk.

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 1, 417, 2013.