

Interactive comment on “An explanation of large-scale coal and gas outbursts in underground coal mines: the effect of low-permeability zones on abnormally abundant gas” by F. H. An and Y. P. Cheng

F. Guzzetti (Editor)

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Dear authors,

The open discussion phase of your submission to NHESS is now closed. Two independent referees have examined your work, and have posted their comments. You have responded to the comments of the two referees.

Based on the comments of the referees, your individual replays, and my own reading

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of the paper, I have decided that the paper can be accepted pending major revision.

In preparing the revised version of your work you should consider carefully the comments and suggestions of both referees. As an editor, I am particularly interested in the comment of the first referee that suggested that the paper might not be suited for this journal. The revised version of your paper must be clear and convincing in explaining how your research might reduce the risk posed by gas outbursts, in China or elsewhere.

The same referee indicated that the findings of your work are not particularly new or innovative. I share this comment, and I encourage you to outline clearly in the revised version of your work what is novel and innovative in your research, summarized in the manuscript.

When preparing the revised version of your manuscript, please make an effort to improve the quality and readability of the figures. Note that use of colours is free of charge in NHESS. Appropriate use of colours may simplify the figures, improving their readability at the same time. Inspection of the Figures published in the discussion version of your work [www.nat-hazards-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/1/4751/2013/ | doi:10.5194/nhessd-1-4751-2013] reveals that some of the labels and text in Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are very small, and difficult to read. In general, when preparing the Figures, consider that the two-column layout of NHESS, and the technical specifications given in http://www.natural-hazards-and-earth-system-sciences.net/submission/manuscript_preparation.html.

With the submission of the revised version of your work I expect that you provide a list of detailed responses to the comments and suggestions of the referees. This will facilitate the work of the referees and the editor. Failure to provide this information will slow or jeopardize the possible final acceptance of your work.

I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript, which should be submitted before June 30, 2014.

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Sincerely,

Fausto Guzzetti NHESS Executive Editor

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 1, 4751, 2013.

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