

## ***Interactive comment on “Pre-earthquake magnetic pulses” by J. Scoville et al.***

**J. Scoville et al.**

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Dear Dr. Masci,

Science can make progress only if its principles are applied properly, and, perhaps more importantly, if it remains grounded to empirical observations.

A phenomenological physical model (the case at hand, as we have not derived our model from fundamental theory) concerns a mathematical relationship in a set of data. Although the form of this relationship may suggest something about the underlying physics, the model itself doesn't directly concern the particular physical mechanisms that led to the data.

As such, when considering such a model, one should generally favor de-emphasizing the underlying physical mechanisms and the literature surrounding them. The equa-

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tions stand on their own. The question of an underlying mechanism is, after all, irrelevant to the question of whether or not the model equations agree with empirically observed data.

Best regards,

John Scoville

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Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 2, 7367, 2014.