

## ***Interactive comment on “Antecedent flow conditions and nitrate concentrations in the Mississippi River Basin” by J. C. Murphy et al.***

**M. Hrachowitz (Editor)**

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Dear authors,

having received the reviews from 2 reviewers, you will have seen that both of them raise quite some critical issues, mostly related to the methodology used and the conclusions that can actually be drawn with the applied methods.

I think that the m/s addresses a highly interesting topic, but that it is not yet quite developed to the point. If you feel that it is feasible to adequately address all reviewers concerns in a major revision, I would be glad to receive such a revised version. Note, however, that it is the policy of HESS to avoid lengthy review procedures. If therefore the second iteration of reviews still results in the need for major revisions, the m/s will

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be rejected.

Alternatively, I could offer you to withdraw and re-submit a revised version. In that case the publication fees will be waived. The advantage of that alternative is that it starts an entirely new review process (allowing a further iteration of major revisions, if required).

I will leave the decision on how to proceed open to you. If you decide to continue the started review process, please provide detailed replies to the reviewers comments in the discussion forum and subsequently submit a revised version of the m/s. Best regards, Markus Hrachowitz

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 10, 11451, 2013.