

Interactive comment on “Recent revisions of phosphate rock reserves and resources: reassuring or misleading? An in-depth literature review of global estimates of phosphate rock reserves and resources” by J. D. Edixhoven et al.

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Our paper contains an in-depth literature review regarding the recent steep increases of PR reserves and resources. The information on these increases was triggered by a report issued by International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) and largely adopted in the Mineral Commodity Summaries issued by US Geological Survey. Three research questions were posed in the paper which can be summarized as follows:

I How does IFDC's simplified terminology compare to international best practice in

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resource classification and does it offer sufficient safeguards for yielding data which are transparent, comparable, reliable and credible? II Is the difference between ore reserves and reserves as concentrate sufficiently understood by the scientific community?; and III Is the estimate of PR reserves and resources contained in the IFDC report reliable?

The first reviewer endorses the paper, stating that the research questions are important and well addressed and answered in sections 3-5, using detailed and thorough referencing in a well structured fashion. The reviewer states that the conclusions are sharp and in agreement with the rest of the paper, and strongly recommends the paper be accepted subject to a number of minor corrections. We would like to thank the first reviewer for his constructive comments and suggestions. We shall incorporate the suggestions made in our final revised paper, as further detailed in the attached supplement.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.earth-syst-dynam-discuss.net/4/C633/2013/esdd-4-C633-2013-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., 4, 1005, 2013.

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