



International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy

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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your recent email in which you raised objections to the current method of deriving the PC index. Having now had the opportunity to have a thorough read of your documents I believe that you are not making a new objection, but rather are restating earlier objections, which you have raised with several people associated with IAGA over several years (and which we discussed a lot about in 2014).

The IAGA Executive Committee and Division Leaders have discussed this issue and your comments and we have concluded that this subject can only be reopened for scrutiny if something is published in the scientific literature to which IAGA would have to respond. Otherwise, a unanimous vote to endorse the PC index was held in 2013 and we therefore consider that no further discussions or reviews are required at this time. In the meantime, where the index is listed only as provisional or quick-look, then users of the index should be aware of the risk of using it and not rely on a provisional or quick-look index for definitive science.

I list here the history of discussions and decisions on the PC index, for your convenience.

SOME HISTORICAL DATES:

- In 2008 (between Perugia and Sopron meetings) IAGA Div.V- WG V-DAT set up a task force (TF) to examine the possible PC endorsement.
- Between 2008 and 2009, TF worked with the index producers (DTU and AARI) and with interested scientists, such as Peter Stauning, to correct any problems.
- In 2009 (Sopron meeting), TF prepared a comprehensive report after going through published literature and also consulting Drs. Stauning and Troshichev. The report included a brief IAGA history of PC. The definition of the Stauning's PCN index and AARI PCS index was unified and it definitely has an affinity with the interplanetary merging electric field. But it was noted that the calculation procedures were not unified. The index was, at that time, not yet at its final stage of development. WG recommends that a comprehensive report with details of all issues regarding the derivation of the coefficients and calculation of actual PC index values be written.

IAGA Executive Committee

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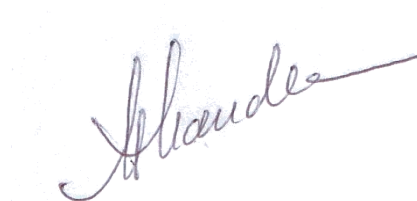
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- In 2011 (Melbourne meeting), a requested 2-year delay for PC endorsement was given. In the mean time, WG encouraged the institutes involved (DTU, AARI) in deriving the PC to reach agreement on a single methodology for derivation.
- In 2013 (Merida meeting), during the IAGA Div.V- WG V-DAT business meeting, a presentation of the joint proposal (J. Matzka, DTU, and O. Troshichev, AARI) was given. Report by TF established that the index satisfied at that time the endorsement Criteria and recommended endorsement of the PC index.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of IAGA and please be assured that we will endeavor to remain aware of any issues with the PC index, in the same way that we do with all IAGA-endorsed indices.

Best Regards,
Mioara



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IAGA Secretary General

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