

ABOUT AGU

AGU Announces Open Review Experiment

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Beginning in September, several AGU journals will introduce an option for "open review," a public discussion forum on submitted manuscripts that takes place simultaneously with the formal review process. This is a 1-year experiment to measure community interest.

In July, AGU journal editors were provided with guidelines and were asked to consider engaging in the experiment. For journals with multiple editors, all editors had to agree to participate. As a result of editor responses, open review will be available for five journals: *Geochemistry*, *Geophysics*, *Geosystems*; *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*; *JGR–Earth Surface*; *JGR–Planets*; and *Radio Science*.

This open review forum is external to GEMS and does not replace the formal peer review process.

Additional aspects about open review are as follows:

- Author participation in open review is optional.
- Registration (i.e., providing a valid e-mail address) is required to post comments on the open review Web site for each participating journal.
- The open review Web sites will not be moderated; however, any uncivil or otherwise offensive comments will be removed.
- Authors are not obligated to respond to posted comments, but they may do so if they wish.

- Formal peer reviews will be posted to the Web sites when the reviews become available.

- Reviewers can decide whether or not to remain anonymous.

- Comments are considered unpublished and will not become part of the permanent record for an article.

- Each article will remain open for discussion until a final decision is made regarding whether or not it will be published; at that time, the article will be removed from the discussion site.

Each participating journal will have its own open review Web site. These sites will be available to AGU members and readers at subscribing libraries. When the first participating article has been assigned reviewers, an announcement and site link will be posted to the journal's top page. Additional access to the open review site will be provided on the appropriate journal's GEMS login page.

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