

Interactive comment on “Productivity feedback did not terminate the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM)” by A. Torfstein et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper deals with a problem of post PETM carbon sequestration, in which the age models of Rohl et al (2007) and Farley and Eltgroth (2003) yield conflicting evidence. It is suggested by the authors that following Farley, excess carbon burial started ca 70ky after the CIE.

Yet I have a few problems with this ms. It is suggested here, but not stated by farley 2007 that carbon burial only increased substantially after Ca70ky. Yet either in farleys fig 2 and in Torfsteins figure 2 I cannot conclude other than that sedimentation rates increase substantially just after CIE, be it that the sedimentation rate increases further into the recovery phase. Yet this is only based on one deep site 690 in the southern ocean. Sluijs et al 2007 have shown that both sedimentation rate and organic carbon burial on shallow sites (New Jersey) increase by a large factor.

So I cannot subscribe to the authors conclusion that Carbon sequestration started only after 70ky.

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 5, 2391, 2009.

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