

Interactive comment on “Development and evaluation of a variably saturated flow model in the global E3SM Land Model (ELM) Version 1.0” by Gautam Bisht et al.

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To maintain reproducibility the authors need to tag the release in the GitHub repository that matches the model version described in the paper. This guarantees that check-ins after manuscript submission don't compromise reproducibility. As explained in https://www.geoscientific-model-development.net/about/manuscript_types.html the preferred reference to this release is through the use of a DOI which is then cited in the paper. For projects in GitHub a DOI for a released code version can easily be created using for instance Zenodo, see <https://guides.github.com/activities/citable-code/> for details.

The authors need also clarify how and under what conditions the reader can access

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the relevant version of the E3SM code. It is expected that any program code used for the results presented in the paper is available at the point of manuscript submission. Reference to a later release is not within the guidelines of GMD.

Lutz Gross GMD Executive Editor

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