

### **Non-public comments to the Author:**

Please double check axis titles where mineral N is concerned. At least one axis says “Mineral N:NO<sub>3</sub>+NO<sub>4</sub>” which looks like a ratio. Please change to “Mineral N (NO<sub>3</sub>+ NH<sub>4</sub>)” where appropriate.

**We have changed all axes to read “Mineral N (NO<sub>3</sub>+NH<sub>4</sub>)”**

Also, please edit the line and error bar pattern in the line graphs. The dotted lines and dotted error bars are very hard to make out. Instead, please use solid lines of different colors or grayscale, or a dotted line with much closer spacing. Currently, wherever the lines overlap or where the error bars are small, it is very difficult to tell where they end.

**We have converted the line graphs to solid greyscale lines, as the dotted lines were not visible when the graph was inserted into the paper**

### **Review Validation Comments**

For the next revision, I kindly ask you to change the coloured symbol on page 17 and the coloured text in the sentence on page 21 of \*.pdf manuscript file with black ones.

**We have removed the coloured symbols on page 17 and the colored text on page 21 of the manuscript.**