

***Interactive comment on “Comment on “The origin of methane in the East Siberian Arctic Shelf unraveled with triple isotope analysis”, by Sapart et al. (2017)” by Katy J. Sparrow and John D. Kessler***

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We would like to thank Anonymous Referee #2 (RC2) for their thorough review of our comment on the article by Sapart et al. (2017). To clarify one subtle point, in our comment we do not hypothesize that the elevated  $^{14}\text{C}$ - $\text{CH}_4$  signatures are due to contamination (incurred during sample collection, processing, and/or analysis) rather than environmental release; instead, we argue that it is premature to suggest, as the authors do, either of these origins when the methodological details, with appropriate standards and blanks, are not presented. As any such details and data remain absent, any con-

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clusions derived from these analyses should be, at best, considered preliminary.

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