

May 2014 has been a relatively quiet month in terms of solar activity. 183 coronal mass ejections have been spotted, 10 coronal mass ejections (CMEs) with angular width $90^\circ < \Delta\alpha < 180^\circ$ and 3 with $\Delta\alpha > 180^\circ$ recorded in this month, resulting into distinct modulation of the galactic cosmic rays (GCRs) (source: <http://sidc.oma.be/cactus/catalog.php>). The Sun has not been really productive in the sense of solar flares (SFs) either. A number of 165 C- and 5 M-class solar flares were occurred. The most energetic one being an M5.2 on 08.05.2014 at 10:07 U.T. from AR2056, N05E55 (Fig. 1):

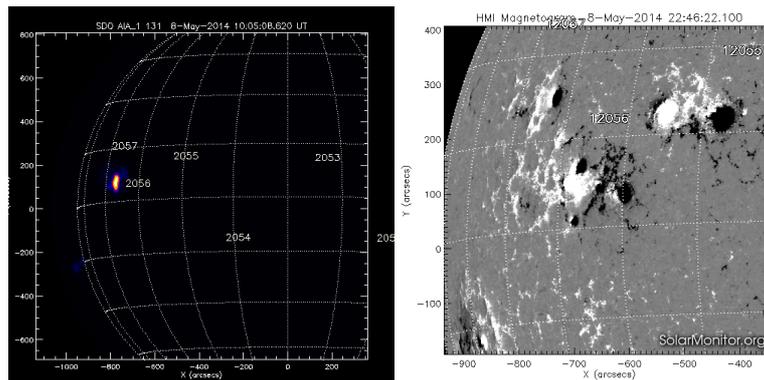


Figure 1: The M5.2 solar flare of 08.05.2014 (from solarmonitor.org)

During this month a series of Forbush decreases were recorded by the neutron monitors started on May 9, 2014 caused by the above mentioned sporadic CMEs. The hourly values of the cosmic ray intensity recorded at the Athens neutron monitor station (cut-off rigidity 8.53 GV) are illustrated in Fig. 2.

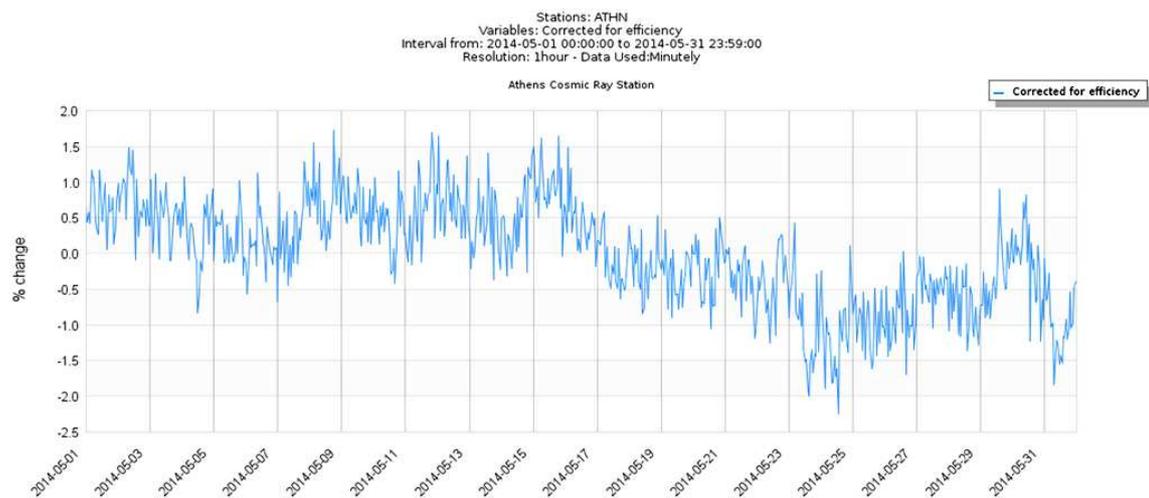


Figure 2: The corrected for efficiency counting rate of Athens Neutron Monitor Station from 01 to 31.05.2014 is given. The maximum amplitude of the Forbush decreases was about 3.5%.

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