

Smelter Blamed For Haze

By CECIL JAMES

University of Arizona physicist James E. McDonald, who reported only yesterday that the massive air pollution here May 19 was dust, not smelter smoke as suspected, said today's curtain of haze on the East Side can be blamed on a copper smelter in San Manuel.

Ironically, smoke filtered into the Tucson area this morning over Redington Pass in much the same manner as dust did on May 19, blotting out mountain ranges.

Today's pollution, McDonald reported, was not nearly as heavy as the May 19 episode.

YESTERDAY, in a talk before the Chamber of Commerce "Keep Our Atmosphere Clean Committee," McDonald warned that a copper smelter 20 to 25 miles south of Tucson would be "disastrous."

McDonald also said that any type of industry which would emit unpleasant odors should be zoned out of the area to the south and southeast of Tucson.

"Such industries should be placed northwest of Tucson, preferably beyond the Jaynes Station area," he asserted.

McDONALD'S reference to the possible smelter south of Tucson resulted from his thorough discussion of May 19, when at one time visibility in the Tucson area was limited to two miles.

At that time, it was believed J the haze came from the smelters in the San Manuel and w Hayden areas.

"I was under that impression, too," McDonald said. "I interviewed more than 50 persons, including weather observers and airplane pilots, and all the evidence seemed to point to the smelters."

However, McDonaid later checked with an observer in Willcox and discovered that in the early morning of May 19, there were strong winds and a dust storm traveling westerly through the area.