

TUCSON'S GASP**Group Spokesmen Demand Action On Air Pollution**

By NYLA CRONE
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With the warning that Arizonans soon may all be gasping for clean air, a University of Arizona professor is urging less study, less statistics and more action to combat the pollution problem.

Dr. John M. Bownds, chairman of the newly-formed Group Against Smelter Pollution (GASP) yesterday said it's time that scientists "stick their necks out" against the continuing threat of smelter pollution in Southern Arizona.

"Very little is being done to eliminate the problem," maintains the mathematics professor, who cited statistics from a 1964 study by Donovan and Bliss, Phoenix engineering physicists.

The study listed the amounts of sulfur dioxide in tons a day emitted from Arizona copper smelters. "Douglas, which should be in the sulfur dioxide business," Bownds said, "is the worst offender with 1,748 tons of the pollutant a day and 266 tons of copper."

Technology is available to eliminate about 90 per cent of the sulfur dioxide, he told a chemistry seminar at the UA.

While Kennecott at Hayden has constructed an acid plant which converts a portion of the sulfur dioxide to sulphuric acid for use in ore leaching, Bownds said he and other GASP members feel that the plant was motivated by a "demand for the acid rather than a need for clean air."

Bownds warned that "if people don't put the pressure on to do something now, the pollution problems will be as bad as the West Coast's. If it happens here in Tucson, everybody's to blame."

Another UA scientist, Dr. James E. McDonald, agrees. The atmospheric physicist feels, however, that "there are some complex scientific questions not yet answerable about smelter pollution effects in Phoenix and Tucson."

"Even more important," he said today, "is the one development that could constitute a real air pollution disaster in Tucson."

McDonald feels that as more copper is discovered in the Sierita district, it may become tempting to "some copper company to locate a smelter near Sahuarita.

"If a smelter of the San Manuel or Douglas type were located 20 or 30 miles south of town, we'd be almost as smoke-plagued as Hayden, Globe or Douglas.

"Tucsonians have to be ready to fight with everything they've got if a copper company should ever try to propose a smelter down there."

