

Plant Could Transition From Zinc Smelting To Petrochemicals

MONACA, Pa. (AP) — Horsehead Corporation has filed a 60-day notice with the state, warning workers that it plans to close a zinc smelter in western Pennsylvania by year's end. The move was expected as the plant in Potter Township may become the site of a new \$2.5 billion petrochemical "cracker" plant that Shell Oil could build on the site about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh.

But the *Beaver County Times* reports that the closing is still tough news for the plant's nearly 500 hourly employees. Horsehead spokesman Ali Alavi says the company plans to begin producing zinc at a new \$450 million plant in Mooresboro, N.C. by year's end. That plant is being built to replace the western Pennsylvania factory. A Shell spokesman wouldn't comment on whether and when the company will make a decision on the cracker plant.

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