

Shell Extends Option On PA Cracker Plant

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A company closing its western Pennsylvania zinc **plant** says Shell **Chemical** LP has extended and amended an option agreement to purchase the site, which Shell might use for an ethane cracking **plant**.

According to a news release Thursday, Horsehead Corp.'s agreement extends the time Shell has to buy the site about 35 miles northwest of Pittsburgh and includes plans to start demolishing the zinc **plant** early next year at Shell's expense.

Shell officials did not immediately comment on the announcement, but a company spokeswoman said in November that the company's "evaluation of the site continues" although that "typically takes several years." A Horsehead spokesman didn't immediately return a call to clarify the length of the new option.

The new **plant** would convert ethane from Marcellus and Utica Shale natural **gas** into other products.

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