

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Form S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
under
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
(a Delaware corporation)
Executive Offices -- 2030 Dow Center
Midland, Michigan 48674

*(Name, state of incorporation and address of principal
executive office of issuer)*

I.R.S. Employer Identification No. 38-1285128

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
ELECTIVE DEFERRAL PLAN
(Full title of the plan)

RICHARD L. MANETTA
CORPORATE VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL
THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
2030 Dow Center
Midland, Michigan 48674

(Name and address of agent for service)

Telephone: (989) 636-1000

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Deferred Compensation and Matching Contributions by The Dow Chemical Company	\$100,000,000.00	N/A	\$100,000,000.00	\$8,100.00

PART II

Item 3. INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following document heretofore filed by The Dow Chemical Company ("Dow") with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is incorporated herein by this reference: Dow's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002. (The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedule incorporated by reference from Dow's Annual Report on Form 10-K have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. The consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and cash flows of Union Carbide Corporation ("Union Carbide") and subsidiaries for the year ended December 31, 2000 (not presented separately therein) have been audited by KPMG LLP, independent auditors to Union Carbide prior to the merger of Union Carbide and a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference.)

All documents subsequently filed by Dow pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all the securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all such securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Item 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

The Dow Chemical Company Elective Deferral Plan (the "Plan") provides designated Dow employees ("Participant(s)") with an opportunity to defer a portion of their compensation and accumulate tax-deferred earnings thereon. A brief description of certain aspects of the Plan follows (the official provisions of the Plan are contained in the Plan Document, which controls in the event of a discrepancy):

(a) The Plan allows a Participant to defer a portion of his or her pre-tax salary and performance awards. The amount deferred will be credited to that Participant's account, and earnings based on several methods selected by the Participants will accumulate thereon on a tax-deferred basis.

(b) Deferrals are eligible for partial matching contributions by Dow.

(c) Benefits from the Plan may be received while the Participant is employed at Dow or at retirement in a lump sum or in monthly payments up to 15 years. Upon death, any such benefits not previously paid out will be paid to a

designated beneficiary. Income taxes on deferred amounts, including earnings thereon, will not be required to be paid until such benefits are paid to the Participant or his or her beneficiary.

(d) Each Participant is an unsecured general creditor of Dow with respect to his or her own Plan benefits. Benefits are payable solely from Dow's general assets, and are subject to the risk of corporate insolvency. Each Participant's deferred compensation will be mingled with the general funds of Dow and may therefore be subject to a lien or security interest of other creditors.

(e) The total amount of securities being registered pursuant to this registration statement is \$100,000,000.

(f) Dow reserves the right to amend or partially or completely terminate the Plan, provided that such amendment or termination does not result in any reduction of a Participant's account balance, including previous earnings or losses, as of the date of such amendment or termination.

(g) Dow has appointed the Retirement Board to assist in administering the Plan. The Retirement Board has the right to interpret the Plan and determine all other matters that might arise under the terms and conditions of the Plan. Its decisions are final and binding on all Participants.

Item 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS

Under Article VI of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, Dow may indemnify its Directors, officers, employees and agents to such extent as is permitted by the laws of the State of Delaware and as Dow's Bylaws may from time to time provide. Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware empowers Dow to indemnify, subject to the standards and limitations therein prescribed, any person in connection with any action, suit or proceeding brought or threatened by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Director, officer, employee or agent of Dow or is or was serving as such with respect to another corporation or other enterprise at the request of Dow. Under Section VI of the Bylaws of Dow, Dow is required to indemnify its Directors, officers and employees to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law whenever such a person is a defendant in any legal proceeding. Section VI also gives the Company discretion to indemnify Directors, officers, employees and agents in other legal proceedings to which they are made a party. Any indemnification of a Director, officer, employee or agent of the Company must be approved by the Board of Directors. Dow maintains a Directors' and officers' liability insurance policy that indemnifies Dow's Directors and officers against certain losses in connection with claims made against them for certain wrongful acts.

Item 8. EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
4(a)	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of The Dow Chemical Company, filed as Exhibit 3(i) to Dow's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, incorporated herein by this reference.
4(b)	Bylaws of The Dow Chemical Company, filed as Exhibit 3(ii) to Dow's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002 incorporated herein by this reference.
23(a)	Independent Auditors' Consent.
23(b)	Independent Auditors' Consent.
23(c)	ARPC's Consent.
24	Power of Attorney.

Item 9. UNDERTAKINGS

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form S-8 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to

Directors, officers and controlling persons of the undersigned registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a Director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such Director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the undersigned registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

The Registrant. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Midland, and the State of Michigan on February 28, 2003.

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
(Registrant)

By: /S/ FRANK H. BROD
Frank H. Brod
Vice President and Controller

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

A. A. ALLEMANG*

A. A. Allemang Director and
Executive Vice
President

J. K. BARTON*

J. K. Barton Director

F. H. BROD*

F. H. Brod Vice President and
Controller
(Principal
Accounting Officer)

A. J. CARBONE*

A. J. Carbone Director and Vice
Chairman of the
Board

J. M. COOK*

J. M. Cook Director

J. C. DANFORTH*

J. C. Danforth Director

W. D. DAVIS*

W. D. Davis Director

B. H. FRANKLIN*

B. H. Franklin Director

<u>K. M. McKennon</u>	Director
<u>J. P. REINHARD*</u> J. P. Reinhard	Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
<u>J. M. RINGLER*</u> J. M. Ringler	Director
<u>H. T. SHAPIRO*</u> H. T. Shapiro	Presiding Director
<u>W. S. STAVROPOULOS*</u> W. S. Stavropoulos	Director, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer
<u>P. G. STERN*</u> P. G. Stern	Director

*By: /S/ FRANK H. BROD
Frank H. Brod
Attorney-in-Fact

February 28, 2003

EXHIBIT INDEX

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Exhibit 23(a)

Independent Auditors' Consent

The Dow Chemical Company:

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of The Dow Chemical Company on Form S-8 of our reports dated January 30, 2003 (February 13, 2003 as to Note U) (which report on the consolidated financial statements expresses an unqualified opinion and includes an explanatory paragraph relating to a change in the method of accounting for derivative instruments and hedging activities to conform to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133 and an explanatory paragraph relating to a change in the method of accounting for goodwill to conform to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards Nos. 141 and 142) appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of The Dow Chemical Company for the year ended December 31, 2002.

We also consent to the reference to us under the heading "Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference" in this Registration Statement.

/s/Deloitte & Touche LLP

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Midland, Michigan

February 27, 2003

Exhibit 23(b)

Independent Auditor's Consent

The Board of Directors
The Dow Chemical Company:

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of The Dow Chemical Company on Form S-8 of our report dated January 22, 2001, except as to Note 17, which is as of February 6, 2001, appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of The Dow Chemical Company for the year ended December 31, 2002, relating to the consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and cash flows of Union Carbide Corporation and subsidiaries for the year ended December 31, 2000 (not presented separately therein), and to the reference to us under the heading "Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference" in this Registration Statement.

/s/ KPMG LLP
KPMG LLP
Stamford, Connecticut
February 27, 2003

Exhibit 23(c)

Analysis, Research & Planning Corporation's Consent

Regarding the Registration Statement on Form S-8 for The Dow Chemical Company Elective Deferral Plan (the "Registration Statement"), Analysis, Research & Planning Corporation ("ARPC") hereby consents to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement of the use of ARPC's name and the reference to ARPC's report dated January 9, 2003 appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of The Dow Chemical Company for the year ended December 31, 2002.

/S/ B. THOMAS FLORENCE

B. Thomas Florence

President

Analysis, Research & Planning Corporation

February 26, 2003

Exhibit 24

Power of Attorney

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints J. Pedro Reinhard, Richard L. Manetta and Frank H. Brod, acting severally, as his or her attorney-in-fact and agent, to sign one or more registration statements on Form S-8 and any or all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to such registration statements in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933 of certain securities in connection with The Dow Chemical Company **1988 Award and Option Plan** and The Dow Chemical Company **Elective Deferral Plan**, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting to said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to perform any act in connection with any of the foregoing as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. Each attorney-in-fact and agent is hereby granted full power of substitution and revocation with respect hereto.

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
<u>/S/ A.A. Allemang</u> A.A. Allemang	Director and Executive Vice President	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ J.J. Barton</u> J.K. Barton	Director	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ F.H. Brod</u> F.H. Brod	Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ A.J. Carbone</u> A.J. Carbone	Director and Vice Chairman of the Board	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ J.M. Cook</u> J.M. Cook	Director	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ J.C. Danforth</u> J.C. Danforth	Director	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ W.D. Davis</u> W.D. Davis	Director	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ B.H. Franklin</u> B.H. Franklin M.D. Parker	Director	December 12, 2002
	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer	
<u>/S/ J.P. Reinhard</u> J.P. Reinhard	Director, Executive Vice president and Chief Financial Officer	December 12, 2002

<u>/S/ H.T. Shapiro</u> H.T. Shapiro	Director	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/W.S.Stavropoulos</u> W.S. Stavropoulos	Director and Chairman of the Board	December 12, 2002
<u>/S/ P.G. Stern</u> P.G. Stern	Director	December 12, 2002