

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/
Form 424B3
November 13, 2002

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b) (3)
Registration No. 333-91228

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not offers to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion
Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated November 12, 2002

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus, dated September 12, 2002)

[LOGO]

\$
The Dow Chemical Company
% Notes due

Title of Securities: % Notes due

Ranking: The Notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured indebtedness from time to time outstanding

Coupon: % per year

Interest Payment Dates: and , commencing ,

Principal Amount: U.S.\$

Maturity Date:

Make Whole Redemption Option: Yes

Make Whole Redemption Price: Treasuries + bps

Withholding Redemption Option: No

Form: Book-entry only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company

Moody's Rating: A3

S&P Rating: A

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission or other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We are offering these Notes ultimately to purchasers of pass-through certificates of the Core Investment Grade Bond Trust I offered simultaneously herewith through Core Bond Products LLC, as depositor of the Core Investment Grade Bond Trust I, utilizing the services of Banc of America Securities LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. as our agents. Each of Banc of America Securities

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. is a statutory underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933.

Banc of America Securities LLC

JPMorgan

The date of this prospectus supplement is .

PROSPECTUS

The Dow Chemical Company

By this prospectus, Dow may offer from time to time a total of up to \$1,500,000,000 of securities, which may include:

- . common stock
- . preferred stock
- . warrants to purchase common stock
- . warrants to purchase preferred stock
- . debt securities
- . warrants to purchase debt securities

Dow will provide you with the specific terms and the public offering prices of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the prospectus supplements carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "Dow."

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful and complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus is dated September 12, 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
-	----
About this Prospectus	2
The Dow Chemical Company	2
Selected Consolidated Financial Data	3
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	5
Use of Proceeds	5
Description of Capital Stock	5
Description of Debt Securities	10
Description of Warrants to Purchase Common Stock or Preferred Stock	21
Description of Debt Warrants	22

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

Plan of Distribution	23
Legal Matters	24
Experts	24
Where You Can Find More Information	25

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that Dow filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the shelf registration process. Dow may sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants to purchase common stock, warrants to purchase preferred stock and warrants to purchase debt securities. The total sales of all securities sold under this prospectus, however, may not exceed \$1,500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities Dow may offer. Each time Dow sells securities, Dow will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

Dow is a leading science and technology company that provides innovative chemical, plastic and agricultural products and services to many essential consumer markets. Dow serves customers in more than 170 countries and a wide range of markets that are vital to human progress, including food, transportation, health and medicine, personal and home care, and building and construction, among others. Dow has 208 manufacturing sites in 38 countries and supplies more than 3,200 products. Dow's corporate offices are located at 2030 Dow Center, Midland, Michigan 48674, and Dow's telephone number is (989) 636-1000.

Additional information concerning Dow and its subsidiaries is included in the documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and incorporated in this prospectus by reference. See the discussion under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

2

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected consolidated financial data for each of the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000, 1999 and 1998 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements. The selected consolidated financial data for the year ended December 31, 1997 and the six months ended June 30, 2002 and 2001 have been derived from Dow's unaudited consolidated financial statements. The selected consolidated financial data for the six months ended June 30, 2002 and 2001 reflect all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) which, in the opinion of management, are considered necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the periods covered. The consolidated financial data have been prepared to give retroactive effect to the Union Carbide merger and include the combined accounts of Dow and Union Carbide Corporation for all periods presented. This data should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information."

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

	For the six months ended		For the years ended		
	June 30,		2001	2000	1999
	2002	2001			
					(in millions)
Income statement data:					
Net sales.....	\$13,479	\$14,730	\$27,805	\$29,534	\$25,800
Income (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....	\$ 276	\$ (437)	\$ (417)	\$ 1,675	\$ 1,675
Net income (loss) available for common stockholders.....	\$ 343	\$ (405)	\$ (385)	\$ 1,675	\$ 1,675
Earnings (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles per common share--diluted.....	\$ 0.30	\$ (0.49)	\$ (0.46)	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.85
Earnings (loss) per common share--diluted.....	\$ 0.37	\$ (0.45)	\$ (0.43)	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.85
Dividends declared per share of Dow common stock.....	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.625	\$ 1.295	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.16
Balance sheet data:					
Total assets.....	\$37,105	\$36,947	\$35,515	\$35,991	\$33,400
Long-term obligations and redeemable preferred stock..	\$ 9,336	\$ 8,379	\$ 9,266	\$ 6,613	\$ 6,900

3

The following table provides pro forma results for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999, as if the non-amortization provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," which Dow adopted on January 1, 2002, had been applied.

In millions, except per share amounts	For the year ended	
	2001	2000
Reported income (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....	\$ (417)	\$ 1,675
Reported net income (loss).....	\$ (385)	\$ 1,675
Adjustments:		
Goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	\$ 128	\$ 128
Negative goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	(10)	(10)
Equity method goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	11	11
Total adjustments.....	\$ 129	\$ 129
Adjusted income (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....	\$ (288)	\$ 1,804
Adjusted net income (loss).....	\$ (256)	\$ 1,804
Reported earnings (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles per common share--basic.....	\$ (0.46)	\$ 1.85
Reported earnings (loss) per common share--basic.....	\$ (0.43)	\$ 1.85
Adjustments:		
Goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.14
Negative goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	(0.01)	(0.01)
Equity method goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	0.01	0.01

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

Total adjustments.....	\$ 0.14	\$ 0
Adjusted earnings (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles per common share--basic.....	\$ (0.32)	\$ 2
Adjusted earnings (loss) per common share--basic.....	\$ (0.29)	\$ 2
Reported earnings (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles per common share--diluted.....	\$ (0.46)	\$ 1
Reported earnings (loss) per common share--diluted.....	\$ (0.43)	\$ 1
Adjustments:		
Goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	\$ 0.14	\$ 0
Negative goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	(0.01)	
Equity method goodwill amortization, net of tax.....	0.01	0
Total adjustments.....	\$ 0.14	\$ 0
Adjusted earnings (loss) before cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles per common share--diluted.....	\$ (0.32)	\$ 1
Adjusted earnings (loss) per common share--diluted.....	\$ (0.29)	\$ 1

4

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

	For the Six Months Ended June 30,		For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2002	2001	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	2.1x	(a)	(b)	3.6x	4.3x	4.3x	6.1x

For the purposes of these ratios, earnings consist of income before (1) income taxes, (2) minority interests, (3) extraordinary items, (4) cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles, (5) amortization of capitalized interest and (6) fixed charges (adjusted to exclude capitalized interest) and after adjustment for unremitted earnings of 20%-50% owned companies. Fixed charges consist of interest on all indebtedness, amortization of capitalized debt costs, discount or premium and a portion of rentals deemed to represent an interest factor. The ratios of earnings to fixed charges give retroactive effect to the February 6, 2001 merger of Union Carbide Corporation with a subsidiary of Dow, resulting in Union Carbide becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow.

(a) As a result of \$1,408 million in pretax costs recorded for merger-related expenses and restructuring, earnings for the six months ended June 30, 2001 were inadequate to cover fixed charges, with a deficiency of \$691 million.

(b) As a result of \$1,487 million in pretax costs recorded for

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

merger-related expenses and restructuring, earnings for the year ended December 31, 2001 were inadequate to cover fixed charges, with a deficiency of \$582 million.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect to use the net proceeds from sales of any securities described in this prospectus for our general corporate purposes, which may include funding capital expenditures, pursuing growth initiatives, whether through acquisitions, joint ventures or otherwise, repaying or refinancing indebtedness or other obligations, and financing working capital increases. Pending the application of the net proceeds, we expect to invest the net proceeds in marketable securities or reduce our short-term indebtedness.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following summary of common stock and preferred stock of Dow does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, the relevant provisions of Delaware law, and by Dow's certificate of incorporation and bylaws, which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Dow is authorized to issue 1,750,000,000 shares of all classes of stock, 1,500,000,000 of which are shares of common stock, par value \$2.50 per share, and 250,000,000 of which are shares of preferred stock. As of June 30, 2002, there were 910,718,107 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of preferred stock issued or outstanding. All issued and outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable. Any additional shares of common stock and preferred stock that Dow issues will be fully paid and non-assessable. Neither Dow's common stockholders nor preferred stockholders have preemptive rights.

Common Stock

General

Dow's certificate of incorporation provides that, subject to all of the rights of holders of preferred stock provided for by the board of directors or by Delaware corporate law, the holders of common stock will have full voting rights on all matters requiring stockholder action, with each share of common stock being entitled to one vote and having equal rights of participation in the dividends and assets of Dow.

5

Board of Directors

Dow's certificate of incorporation divides Dow's board of directors into three classes of directors that are as nearly equal in number as possible with three-year terms. As a result, approximately one-third of Dow's board of directors is elected each year. A quorum of directors consists of a majority of Dow's entire board of directors then holding office.

Number, Filling of Vacancies and Removal of Directors

Dow's certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that its board of directors may not have less than six or more than twenty-one members. The actual number of directors is determined by a vote of a majority of Dow's entire board of directors. Currently, Dow has thirteen members on its board of directors. Vacancies on Dow's board of directors and any newly created

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

directorships are filled by a vote of the majority of the other directors then in office. Directors elected to fill a vacancy or a new position hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders. Directors can be removed only for cause and only by the vote of stockholders holding 80% of the voting power of Dow's outstanding stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class.

Dividends

Delaware corporate law generally provides that a corporation, subject to restrictions in its certificate of incorporation, including preferred stockholders' rights to receive dividends prior to common stockholders, may declare and pay dividends out of:

- . surplus; or
- . net profits for the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared and/or the preceding fiscal year, if there is no surplus.

Dividends may not be paid out of net profits if the capital of the corporation is less than the aggregate amount of capital represented by the issued and outstanding stock of all classes having a preference on the distribution of assets. Dividends on Dow common stock are not cumulative. Dow's certificate of incorporation does not contain any additional restrictions on the declaration or payment of dividends.

Special Meetings of Stockholders

Dow's bylaws provide that a special stockholders' meeting for any purpose may be called only by the board of directors by a resolution adopted by a majority of the entire board:

- . upon motion of a director; or
- . upon written request of stockholders holding at least 50% of the voting power of the shares of capital stock outstanding and entitled to vote generally in the election of directors.

Stockholder notices requesting a special meeting must be given to Dow's Secretary. The notice must include, as to each matter the stockholder proposes to bring before the meeting:

- . the name and address of the stockholder;
- . the class or series and number of shares of capital stock that are beneficially owned by the stockholder;
- . a brief description of the business to be brought before the meeting, including the text of any proposed amendment to the certificate of incorporation or bylaws;
- . a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and any other persons related to the business proposal;

6

- . any material business interests of the stockholder in the business proposal; and
- . a representation that the stockholder intends to appear in person or by

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

proxy at the meeting to bring the business before the meeting.

Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Proposals Other than Election of Directors

Dow's bylaws provide that a stockholder may bring business before an annual stockholders' meeting if the stockholder is a stockholder on the record date of giving notice and on the record date of the meeting and gives notice to Dow's Secretary of business that is proper to be brought at the meeting under Delaware corporate law:

- . no earlier than 120 days or later than 60 days before the anniversary date of the first mailing of proxy materials for the last annual meeting; or
- . if the annual meeting is more than 30 days before or after the anniversary date of the last annual meeting, Dow must receive the stockholder's notice no later than the close of business on the 10th day after the earlier of the date on which notice of the annual meeting date was mailed or publicly disclosed.

The notice must include the same information required to be included in a stockholder's notice in connection with requesting a special meeting. See the section of this prospectus captioned "Special Meetings of Stockholders."

Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Nominations of Directors at an Annual Meeting

Dow's bylaws provide that a stockholder may nominate a person for election to the board of directors at an annual stockholders' meeting if the stockholder gives notice to Dow's Secretary:

- . no more than 120 days and no less than 60 days before the anniversary date of the first mailing of proxy materials for the last annual meeting; or
- . if the annual meeting is more than 30 days before or after the anniversary date of the last annual meeting, Dow must receive the stockholder's notice no later than the close of business on the 10th day after the earlier of the day on which notice of the annual meeting date was mailed or publicly disclosed.

The notice must include the following:

- . a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and the nominee and any other person pursuant to which the nomination is made;
- . the information regarding the nominee that would have been required to be included in a proxy statement filed under the proxy rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission if the nominee had been nominated by the board of directors;
- . the consent of the nominee to serve as a director if he or she is elected; and
- . the information required to be included in a stockholder's notice in connection with requesting a special meeting. See the section of this prospectus captioned "Special Meetings of Stockholders."

Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Nominations of Directors at a Special Meeting

Dow's bylaws provide that a stockholder may nominate a person for election

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

to the board of directors at a special meeting of stockholders if the stockholder gives Dow's secretary notice of the nomination no later than the close of business on the seventh day after notice of the special meeting is first given to stockholders.

In addition to the information required to be included in a stockholder's notice in connection with a special meeting, the notice must include the same information that would be required to nominate a person for election as a director at an annual meeting. See the section of this prospectus captioned "Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Nominations of Directors at an Annual Meeting."

7

Stockholder Action by Written Consent

Under Delaware corporate law, unless otherwise provided in a corporation's certificate of incorporation, any action required or permitted to be taken at an annual or special stockholders' meeting may be taken by written consent, without a meeting, prior notice or a vote. The written consent must be signed by holders of outstanding stock having the minimum number of votes necessary to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote on the matter were present and voted. Dow's certificate of incorporation, however, provides that any action required or permitted to be taken by the stockholders must be taken at a duly called annual or special stockholders' meeting and may not be taken by written consent.

Transactions with Interested Stockholders and a Merger or Sale of Assets

Delaware corporate law requires the approval of the board of directors and a majority of a corporation's outstanding stock entitled to vote to authorize a merger or consolidation unless the company's certificate of incorporation requires a greater percentage. Unless required by a corporation's certificate of incorporation, stockholder approval, however, is not required in certain cases, such as where either:

- . no shares of common stock of the surviving corporation and no shares, securities or obligations convertible into common stock are to be issued or delivered in the merger; or
- . the authorized and unissued shares or the treasury shares of common stock of the surviving corporation to be issued or delivered in the merger, plus those initially issuable upon conversion of any other shares, securities or obligations to be issued or delivered in the merger do not exceed 20% of the shares of common stock of the corporation outstanding immediately prior to the effective date of the merger.

A sale of all or substantially all of a Delaware corporation's assets or a voluntary dissolution of a Delaware corporation requires the vote of a majority of the board of directors and a majority of the corporation's outstanding shares entitled to vote on the matter unless the company's certificate of incorporation requires a greater percentage. Dow's certificate of incorporation does not require a greater percentage, except as described below.

Delaware corporate law generally defines an interested stockholder as a person, other than the corporation and any direct or indirect majority owned subsidiary of the corporation:

- . who is the direct or indirect owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation; or

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

- . is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the direct or indirect owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at any time within the three-year period immediately prior to the date it asked for determination of its status as an interested stockholder; and
- . the affiliates and associates of that person.

Delaware corporate law prohibits an interested stockholder from engaging in a business combination with the Delaware corporation for three years following the time of becoming an interested stockholder. This three-year waiting period does not apply when:

- . prior to the time of becoming an interested stockholder, the board of directors approves either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- . as a result of becoming an interested stockholder, the stockholder owned, excluding shares owned by directors who are also officers and employee stock plans in which participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer, at least 85% of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at the time the transaction began; or
- . at or after the time of becoming an interested stockholder, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at a meeting of stockholders by a vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

8

These restrictions also do not apply in other circumstances, which are set forth in Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, including business combinations with an interested stockholder that are proposed after a public announcement of and prior to the consummation or abandonment of:

- . certain mergers or consolidations specified in Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law;
- . sales of 50% or more of the aggregate market value of a corporation's assets or outstanding voting stock; or
- . tender offers or exchange offers for 50% or more of a corporation's voting stock.

Delaware corporate law allows a corporation to specify in its certificate of incorporation or bylaws that it will not be governed by the section relating to transactions with interested stockholders. Dow has not made that election in its certificate of incorporation or bylaws.

Dow's certificate of incorporation provides that, in addition to the vote required pursuant to Delaware corporate law, the vote of stockholders owning at least 80% of the voting power of the shares of capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, is required to approve any of the following business combination transactions:

- . a merger or consolidation of Dow or a subsidiary of which Dow ultimately owns 50% or more of the capital stock with:

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

--an interested stockholder; or

--any other individual or entity that, after the merger or consolidation, would be an affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder;

- . a sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, pledge, transfer or other disposition, in one or more transactions with or on behalf of an interested stockholder or an affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder, of any assets of Dow or any subsidiary of Dow constituting 5% or more of Dow's total consolidated assets as of the end of the most recent quarter;
- . the issuance or transfer by Dow or any of its subsidiaries of any securities of Dow or its subsidiaries in one or more transactions to, or proposed by or on behalf of, an interested stockholder or an affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder in exchange for cash, securities or other property constituting not less than 5% of Dow's consolidated total assets as of the end of the most recent quarter;
- . the adoption of a plan or proposal for liquidation or dissolution of Dow or any spin-off or split-up of any kind of Dow or any subsidiary of Dow that is proposed by or on behalf of an interested stockholder or an affiliate or associate of an interested stockholder; or
- . any reclassification of securities or recapitalization of Dow, or any merger or consolidation of Dow with a subsidiary of Dow or other transaction that has the direct or indirect effect of increasing the percentage of the outstanding shares of:

--any class of equity securities of Dow or any subsidiary of Dow; or

--any class of securities of Dow or any subsidiary convertible into equity securities of Dow or any subsidiary that are owned directly or indirectly by an interested stockholder and all of its affiliates and associates.

However, the vote of only a majority of the stockholders entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class, is required to approve a business combination transaction that:

- . has been approved by a majority of continuing directors, even if they constitute less than a quorum; or
- . meets price and consideration conditions and procedures that are set forth in Dow's certificate of incorporation.

9

A "continuing director" is:

--anymember of the board of directors who is not an interested stockholder involved in a business combination described above or an affiliate, associate, employee, agent or nominee of an interested stockholder or relative of any of the foregoing persons, and was a member of the board before the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder; or

--asuccessor of a director described above who is recommended or elected to succeed a director described above by the vote of a majority of the directors then on the board.

Dow's certificate of incorporation defines an interested stockholder as any

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

person or entity other than Dow, any subsidiary of Dow, any employee benefit plan of Dow or a subsidiary of Dow or any trustee or fiduciary with respect to any employee benefit plan when acting in a fiduciary capacity, that:

- . is, or was at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, the direct or indirect beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the then-outstanding voting stock of Dow;
- . is an affiliate of Dow and, at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question, was the direct or indirect beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of the outstanding voting stock of Dow; or
- . is an assignee of, or has otherwise succeeded to, any shares of voting stock of Dow of which an interested stockholder was the direct or indirect beneficial owner, at any time within the two-year period immediately prior to the date in question, if the assignment or succession occurred in the course of a transaction or series of transactions not involving a public offering under the Securities Act of 1933.

For purposes of determining whether a person is an interested stockholder, the outstanding voting stock of Dow includes unissued shares of voting stock of Dow beneficially owned by the interested stockholder but not other shares of voting stock of Dow that may be issuable pursuant to an agreement, arrangement or understanding or upon the exercise of conversion rights, warrants or options, or otherwise, to any person who is not an interested stockholder.

Preferred Stock

Dow's board of directors is authorized, subject to Delaware corporate law and without a vote of its stockholders, to issue shares of preferred stock from time to time in one or more series and to determine the voting rights, designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations and restrictions of any series of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement relating to an offering of shares of Dow's preferred stock will describe the terms of the series of preferred stock Dow is offering.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the debt securities summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities to which a prospectus supplement may relate. Each time Dow offers debt securities, the prospectus supplement related to that offering will describe the terms of the debt securities Dow is offering.

The debt securities will be issued under an indenture, dated as of April 1, 1992, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture, dated as of January 1, 1994, a second supplemental indenture dated as of October 1, 1999, and a third supplemental indenture dated as of May 15, 2001, between Dow and Bank One Trust Company, N.A. (successor in interest to The First National Bank of Chicago), as trustee. The indenture as supplemented by the supplemental indentures is referred to in this section as the "indenture." The following summary of the debt securities and the indenture does not purport to be complete and is subject to the provisions of the indenture,

including the defined terms. Whenever Dow refers to particular sections, articles or defined terms of the indenture, those sections, articles or defined

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and prospectus supplement. You should review the indenture that is filed as exhibits to the registration statement for additional information.

General

Dow may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series without limitation as to aggregate principal amount. The indenture does not limit the amount of other indebtedness or securities which Dow may issue.

The debt securities will be unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of Dow's other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

The prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of the debt securities Dow is offering:

- . the title of the debt securities or the series in which the debt securities will be included;
- . any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series;
- . whether the debt securities may be issued as registered securities or bearer securities or both, whether any of the debt securities may be issued initially in temporary global form and whether any of the debt securities may be issued in permanent global form;
- . the price or prices at which the debt securities will be issued;
- . the date or dates on which the principal amount of the debt securities is payable;
- . the interest rate or rates, or the formula by which the interest rate or rates will be determined, if any, and the date from which any interest will accrue;
- . the interest payment dates on which any interest will be payable, the regular record date for any interest payable on any debt securities that are registered securities on any interest payment date, and the extent to which, or the manner in which, any interest payable on a global security on an interest payment date will be paid if different from the manner described below under the section of this prospectus captioned "Global Securities";
- . any mandatory or optional sinking fund or analogous provisions;
- . each office or agency where the principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities will be payable and each office or agency where the debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange;
- . the date, if any, after which and the price or prices at which the debt securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory redemption provisions, be redeemed, in whole or in part, and the other detailed terms and provisions of any optional or mandatory redemption provisions;
- . the denominations in which Dow may issue any debt securities which are registered securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof, and the denominations in which Dow may issue any debt securities which are bearer securities, if other than denominations of \$5,000;
- . the currency or currencies of payment of principal of and any premium and

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

interest on the debt securities;

- . any index used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities;
- . any additional covenants applicable to the debt securities; and
- . any other terms and provisions of the debt securities not inconsistent with the terms and provisions of the indenture.

11

The prospectus supplement also will describe any special provisions for the payment of additional amounts with respect to the debt securities.

If the purchase price of any of the debt securities is denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units or if the principal of, or any premium and interest on, any series of debt securities is payable in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, the restrictions, elections, general tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to such debt securities and such foreign currency or currency units will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement.

Some of the debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities (bearing no interest or bearing interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates) to be sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. The prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax considerations and other special considerations which apply to any original issue discount securities.

Denominations, Registration and Transfer

The debt securities may be issued as registered securities, bearer securities or both. Debt securities may be issued in the form of one or more global securities, as described below under the section of this prospectus captioned "Global Securities." Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, registered securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued only in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof and bearer securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued only in denominations of \$5,000 with coupons attached. A global security will be issued in a denomination equal to the aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities represented by that global security. The prospectus supplement relating to debt securities denominated in a foreign or composite currency will specify the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued.

During the "restricted period" as defined in Treasury Regulation Section 1.163-5(c)(2)(i)(D)(7), no bearer security will be mailed or otherwise delivered to any location in the United States and a bearer security may be delivered during the restricted period only if the person entitled to receive the bearer security furnishes proper written certification that the bearer security is owned by:

- . a person that is not a U.S. person;
- . a qualifying foreign branch of a U.S. financial institution;
- . a U.S. person who acquired the obligation through the qualifying foreign branch of a U.S. financial institution and holds the obligation through that qualifying foreign branch of a U.S. financial institution on the date of certification; or

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

- . a financial institution for resale during the restricted period but not for resale directly or indirectly to a U.S. person or to a person within the United States or its possessions.

Registered securities of any series may be exchanged for other registered securities of the same series and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor of different authorized denominations. In addition, if debt securities of any series may be issued as both registered securities and as bearer securities, at the option of the holder upon written request, and subject to the terms of the indenture, bearer securities (with all unmatured coupons, except as provided below, and all matured coupons in default attached) of any series may be exchanged for registered securities of the same series of any authorized denominations and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any bearer security surrendered in exchange for a registered security between a record date and the relevant date for payment of interest will be surrendered without the coupon relating to the date for payment of interest attached, and interest may be paid only to the holder of the coupon when due in accordance with the terms of the indenture. Except as indicated in the prospectus supplement, bearer securities will not be issued in exchange for registered securities.

12

Debt securities may be presented for exchange as described in the previous paragraph, and registered securities, other than a global security, may be presented for registration of transfer, with the form of transfer duly executed, at the office of the security registrar designated by Dow or at the office of any transfer agent designated by Dow for that purpose, without service charge and upon payment of any taxes and other governmental charges as described in the indenture. The transfer or exchange will be effected when the security registrar or the transfer agent is satisfied with the documents of title and identity of the person making the request. Dow has initially appointed the trustee as the security registrar under the indenture. If a prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agent initially designated by Dow with respect to any series of debt securities, Dow may at any time cancel the designation of the transfer agent or approve a change in the location through which the transfer agent acts, except that:

- . if debt securities of a series may be issued only as registered securities, Dow will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the series; and
- . if debt securities of a series are issuable as bearer securities, Dow will be required to maintain (in addition to the security registrar) a transfer agent in a place of payment for the series located outside the United States.

Dow may at any time designate additional transfer agents with respect to any series of debt securities.

In the event of any redemption in part, Dow will not be required to:

- . issue, register the transfer of or exchange debt securities of any series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the date of the mailing of a notice of redemption of debt securities of that series selected to be redeemed and ending at the close of business on:
 - if debt securities of the series may be issued only as registered securities, the day of mailing of the relevant notice of redemption; and

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

--if debt securities of the series may be issued as bearer securities, the day of the first publication of the notice of redemption or, if debt securities of the series also may be issued as registered securities and there is no publication, the mailing of the relevant notice of redemption;

- . register the transfer of or exchange any registered security or portion of any registered security called for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any registered security being redeemed in part; or
- . exchange any bearer security called for redemption, except to exchange the bearer security for a registered security of that series and like tenor which is immediately surrendered for redemption.

Payments and Paying Agents

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, Dow will pay the principal of and any premium and interest on registered securities other than a global security at the office of one or more paying agents designated by Dow. At Dow's option, however, Dow may pay any interest by check mailed to the address of the payee entitled to the interest at the address which appears in the security register. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, payment of any installment of interest on registered securities will be made to the person in whose name the registered security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the applicable interest payment.

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, Dow may pay the principal of and any premium and interest on bearer securities, subject to applicable laws and regulations, at the offices of one or more paying agents outside the United States designated by Dow. At Dow's option, however, Dow may pay any interest by check or by wire transfer to an account maintained by the payee outside the United States. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, payment of interest on bearer securities on any interest payment date will be made only upon surrender of the coupon relating to that interest payment date. No payment with respect to any bearer security will be made at any office or agency of Dow in the United States by check mailed to any

13

address in the United States or by transfer to an account maintained in the United States. Payments will not be made in respect of bearer securities or coupons related to those bearer securities upon presentation to or any other demand for payment from Dow or its paying agents within the United States. Dow will pay the principal of and any premium and interest on bearer securities denominated and payable in U.S. dollars, however, at the office of Dow's paying agent in the United States if, and only if:

- . payment of the full amount in U.S. dollars at all offices or agencies outside the United States is illegal or effectively precluded by exchange controls or other similar restrictions; and
- . Dow has delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to that effect.

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, the principal office of the trustee in New York City will be Dow's sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities which may be issued only as registered securities. Any paying agent outside the United States and any other paying agent in the United States initially designated by Dow for the debt securities will be named in the prospectus supplement. Dow may at any time designate

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

additional paying agents, or cancel the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that:

- . if debt securities of a series may be issued only as registered securities, Dow will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the series; and
- . if debt securities of a series may be issued as bearer securities, Dow will be required to maintain:
 - a paying agent in each place of payment for the series in the United States for payments with respect to any registered securities of the series and for payments with respect to bearer securities of the series in the circumstances described above;
 - a paying agent in each place of payment located outside the United States where debt securities of the series and any coupons related to the debt securities may be presented and surrendered for payment, provided that if the debt securities of the series are listed on The International Stock Exchange, London or the Luxembourg Stock Exchange or any other stock exchange located outside the United States and the stock exchange so requires, Dow will maintain a paying agent in London or Luxembourg City or any other required city located outside the United States for debt securities of the series; and
 - a paying agent in each place of payment located outside the United States where, subject to applicable laws and regulations, registered securities of the series may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange and where notices and demands to or upon Dow may be served.

All amounts paid by Dow to a paying agent for the payment of principal of and any premium and interest on any debt security that remain unclaimed at the end of two years after the principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to Dow and after the repayment the holder of the debt security or any coupon related to the debt security may look only to Dow for the payment of principal of and any premium and interest on the debt security.

Global Securities

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the prospectus supplement. Global securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. Unless and until it is exchanged for debt securities in definitive form, a temporary global security in registered form may not be transferred except as a whole by:

- . the depositary for the global security to a nominee of the depositary;
- . a nominee of the depositary for the global security to the depositary or another nominee of the depositary; or

14

- . the depositary for the global security or the nominee to a successor of the depositary or a nominee of the successor.

Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, registered debt securities issued in global form will be represented by one or more global securities deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, New

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

York, New York, which we refer to as DTC, or other depository Dow appoints and registered in the name of the depository or its nominee. The debt securities will not be issued in definitive form unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement.

DTC will act as securities depository for the securities. The debt securities will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee). One fully-registered global security will be issued with respect to each \$400 million of principal amount and an additional certificate will be issued with respect to any remaining principal amount of debt securities.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and other similar organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange, Inc., and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to indirect participants such as securities brokers and dealers, banks, and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

Purchases of debt securities under the DTC system must be made by or through direct participants, which will receive a credit for the debt securities on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each debt security is in turn to be recorded on the direct and indirect participants' records. These beneficial owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but beneficial owners are expected to receive a written confirmation providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the direct or indirect participants through which the beneficial owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the debt securities are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in debt securities, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the debt securities is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all debt securities deposited by participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of debt securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. will effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the debt securities; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts the debt securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Delivery of notices and other communications by DTC to direct participants, by direct participants to indirect participants, and by direct participants and indirect participants to beneficial owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

Redemption notices will be sent to DTC. If less than all of the debt securities within an issue are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each direct participant in the issue to be redeemed.

15

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co will consent or vote with respect to debt securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an omnibus proxy to Dow as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts the debt securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

Principal and interest payments, if any, on the debt securities will be made to Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit direct participants' accounts, upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from Dow or the trustee, on the applicable payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of that participant and not of DTC, the trustee or Dow, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal and interest to Cede & Co. is Dow's responsibility or the trustee's, disbursement of payments to direct participants shall be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of payments to beneficial owners is the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

A beneficial owner must give notice to elect to have its debt securities purchased or tendered, through its participant, to a tender agent, and shall effect delivery of debt securities by causing the direct participants to transfer the participant's interest in the debt securities, on DTC's records, to a tender agent. The requirement for physical delivery of debt securities in connection with an optional tender or a mandatory purchase will be deemed satisfied when the ownership rights in the debt securities are transferred by direct participants on DTC's records and followed by a book-entry credit of tendered debt securities to the tender agent's account.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the debt securities at any time by giving reasonable notice to Dow or the trustee. Under these circumstances, in the event Dow does not appoint a successor securities depository, debt security certificates will be printed and delivered.

Dow may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, debt security certificates will be printed and delivered.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that Dow believes to be reliable, but Dow takes no responsibility for their accuracy.

Limitations on Issuance of Bearer Securities

Bearer securities may not be offered, sold, resold or delivered during the "restricted period" as defined in Treasury Regulation Section 1.163-5(c) (2) (i) (D) (7) in the United States or its possessions or to U.S. persons other than to a qualifying foreign branch of a U.S. financial

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

institution. Any underwriters participating in the offering of bearer debt securities must agree that they will not:

- . offer any bearer securities for sale or resale in the United States or its possessions or to United States persons, other than a qualifying foreign branch of a U.S. financial institution; nor
- . deliver bearer securities within the United States.

Bearer securities and any coupons related to bearer securities will bear a legend substantially to the following effect: "Any United States person who holds this obligation will be subject to limitations under the United States income tax laws, including the limitations provided in Section 165(j) and 1287(a) of the Internal Revenue Code". Under Sections 165(j) and 1287(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, holders that are U.S. persons, with certain exceptions set forth in the Internal Revenue Code, will not be entitled to deduct any loss on bearer securities and must treat as ordinary income any gain realized on the sale or other disposition (including the receipt of principal) of bearer securities.

The term "qualifying foreign branch of a United States financial institution" means a branch located outside the United States of a U.S. securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds

16

customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business and that provides a certificate within a reasonable time, or a blanket certificate in the year the debt security is issued or either of the preceding two calendar years, stating that it agrees to comply with the requirements of Section 165(j) (3) (A), (B) or (C) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations.

The term "U.S. person" means a citizen or resident of the United States, a corporation, partnership or other entity created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision of the United States, and an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

The term "United States" means the United States of America, including the states and the District of Columbia.

The term "possessions" includes Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Wake Island and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Certain Covenants of Dow

Limitations on Liens

Subject to the exceptions described below and those set forth under "Exempted Indebtedness", Dow may not, and may not permit any restricted subsidiary to, create or permit to exist any lien on any principal property, additions to principal property or shares of capital stock of any restricted subsidiary without equally and ratably securing the debt securities. This restriction will not apply to permitted liens, including:

- . liens on principal property existing at the time of its acquisition or to secure the payment of all or part of the purchase price;
- . liens existing on the date of the indenture;

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

- . liens on property or shares of capital stock, or arising out of any indebtedness of any corporation existing at the time the corporation becomes or is merged into Dow or a restricted subsidiary;
- . liens which secure debt owing to Dow or a subsidiary by a restricted subsidiary;
- . liens in connection with the issuance of tax-exempt industrial development or pollution control bonds or other similar bonds issued pursuant to Section 103(b) of the Internal Revenue Code to finance all or any part of the purchase price of or the cost of construction, equipping or improving property, provided that those liens are limited to the property acquired or constructed or the improvement and to substantially unimproved real property on which the construction or improvement is located; provided further, that Dow and its restricted subsidiaries may further secure all or any part of such purchase price or the cost of construction of any improvements and personal property by an interest on additional property of Dow and restricted subsidiaries only to the extent necessary for the construction, maintenance and operation of, and access to, the property so acquired or constructed or the improvement;
- . liens arising from assignments of money due under contracts with the United States or any State, or any department, agency or political subdivision of the United States or any State;
- . liens in favor of any customer arising in respect of payments made by or on behalf of a customer for goods produced for or services rendered to customers in the ordinary course of business not exceeding the amount of those payments;
- . any extension, renewal or replacement of any lien referred to in any of the previous clauses; and
- . statutory liens, liens for taxes or assessments or governmental charges or levies not yet due or delinquent or which can be paid without penalty or are being contested in good faith, landlord's liens on leased property, easements and liens of a similar nature as those described above.

17

Limitation on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

Subject to the exceptions set forth below under the section of this prospectus captioned "Exempted Indebtedness", sale and lease-back transactions by Dow or any restricted subsidiary of any principal property are prohibited (except for temporary leases for a term, including any renewal thereof, of not more than three years and except for leases between Dow and a subsidiary or between subsidiaries) unless the net proceeds of the sale and leaseback transaction are at least equal to the fair value of the property.

Exempted Indebtedness

Dow or any restricted subsidiary may create or assume liens or enter into sale and lease-back transactions not otherwise permitted under the limitations on liens and sale and lease-back transactions described above, so long as at that time and after giving effect to the lien or sale and lease-back transaction, the sum of:

- (1) the aggregate outstanding indebtedness of Dow and its consolidated subsidiaries incurred after the date of the indenture and secured by the

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

liens relating to principal property; plus

(2) the aggregate discounted value of the obligations for rental payments in respect to the sale and lease-back transactions relating to principal property does not exceed 10% of consolidated net tangible assets.

There are no covenants or provisions contained in the indenture which protect holders of debt securities in the event of a highly leveraged transaction.

Certain Definitions

The following are the meanings of terms that are important in understanding the covenants previously described:

- . "consolidated net tangible assets" means the total assets of Dow and its consolidated subsidiaries as shown on or reflected in its balance sheet, less:
 - all current liabilities, excluding current liabilities which could be classified as long-term debt under generally accepted accounting principles and current liabilities which are by their terms extendible or renewable at the obligor's option to a time more than 12 months after the time as of which the amount of current liabilities is being computed;
 - advances to entities accounted for on the equity method of accounting; and
 - intangible assets.
- . "intangible assets" means the aggregate value, net of any applicable reserves, as shown on or reflected in Dow's balance sheet, of:
 - all trade names, trademarks, licenses, patents, copyrights and goodwill;
 - organizational and development costs;
 - deferred charges, other than prepaid items such as insurance, taxes, interest, commissions, rents and similar items and tangible assets being amortized; and
 - amortized debt discount and expense, less unamortized premium.
- . "principal property" means any manufacturing facility having a gross book value in excess of 1% of consolidated net tangible assets that is owned by Dow or any restricted subsidiary and located within the United States, excluding its territories and possessions and Puerto Rico, other than any facility or portion of a facility which Dow's board of directors reasonably determines is not material to the business conducted by Dow and its subsidiaries as a whole.

18

- . "restricted subsidiary" means any subsidiary:
 - of which substantially all of the property of is located, and substantially all of the business is carried on, within the United States, excluding its territories and possessions and Puerto Rico; and

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

--which owns or operates one or more principal properties; provided, however, restricted subsidiary shall not include a subsidiary which is primarily engaged in the business of a finance or insurance company, and branches of that finance or insurance company.

- . "subsidiary" means each corporation of which more than 50% of the outstanding voting stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by Dow or one or more of its subsidiaries, or by Dow and one or more of its subsidiaries.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

Dow may not merge or consolidate or sell or convey all or substantially all of its assets unless:

- . the successor corporation is Dow or is a domestic corporation which assumes Dow's obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture; and
- . after giving effect to the transaction, Dow or the successor corporation would not be in default under the indenture.

Events of Default

With respect to any series of debt securities, any one of the following events will constitute an event of default under the indenture:

- (1) default by Dow for 30 days in the payment of any installment of interest on the debt securities of that series;
- (2) default by Dow in the payment of any principal on the debt securities of that series;
- (3) default by Dow in the payment of any sinking fund installment;
- (4) default by Dow in the performance, or breach by Dow, of any of the covenants or warranties contained in the indenture for the benefit of the debt securities of that series which is not remedied within a period of 90 days after receipt of written notice by Dow from the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding;
- (5) we commence bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings or consent to any bankruptcy relief sought against us;
- (6) we become involved in involuntary bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings and an order for relief is entered against us, if that order remains in effect for more than 60 consecutive days; or
- (7) any other event of default established in accordance with the supplemental indenture or board resolution with respect to any series of debt securities.

No event of default described in clauses (1), (2), (3), (4) or (6) above with respect to a particular series of debt securities necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to any other series of debt securities.

The indenture provides that if an event of default under clauses (1), (2), (3), (4) or (6) above (but only if the event of default under clause (4) or (6) is with respect to less than all series of debt securities then outstanding) shall have occurred and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

securities of the series affected by the event of default, each affected series treated as a separate class, may declare the principal of all the debt securities of each affected series, together

19

with accrued interest, to be due and payable immediately. If an Event of Default under clause (4), (5) or (6) above (but only if the event of default under clause (4) or (6) is with respect to all of the series of debt securities then outstanding) shall have occurred and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in the aggregate principal amount of all the debt securities then outstanding, treated as one class, may declare the principal of all the debt securities, together with accrued interest, to be due and payable immediately. If prior to any judgment or decree for the payment of money due being entered or obtained, Dow delivers to the trustee an amount of money sufficient to pay all interest then due and the principal of any securities that have matured (other than through acceleration) and the trustee's expenses and Dow has cured any defaults under the Indenture, then such declaration (including a declaration caused by a default in the payment of principal or interest, the payment for which has subsequently been provided) may be annulled by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the series then outstanding, each such series treated as a separate class, or all debt securities treated as one class, as the case may be, as were entitled to declare such default. In addition, past defaults may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the series then outstanding, each series treated as a separate class, or all debt securities treated as one class, as the case may be, as were entitled to declare such default, except a default in the payment of the principal of or interest on the debt securities or in respect of a covenant or provision of the indenture which cannot be modified or amended without the approval of the holder of each debt security so affected.

The indenture contains a provision entitling the trustee, subject to the duty of the trustee during default to act with the required standard of care, to be indemnified by the holders of debt securities before exercising any right or power under the indenture at the request of the holders of the debt securities. The indenture also provides that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected, each series treated as a separate class, may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of such series.

The indenture requires Dow to file annually with the trustee a certificate as to the absence of any default or specifying any default that exists.

Satisfaction and Discharge of Indenture

The indenture with respect to any series, except for the surviving obligations, including Dow's obligation to compensate the trustee and to pay the principal of and interest on the debt securities of that series, will be discharged and canceled upon the satisfaction of specified conditions, including:

- . payment of all the debt securities of that series; or
- . the deposit with the trustee of cash or U.S. government obligations or a combination of cash or U.S. government obligations sufficient for the payment or redemption in accordance with the indenture and the terms of the debt securities of that series.

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

Modification and Waiver

Dow and the trustee may modify and amend the indenture with the consent of the holders of more than 50% of the principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series which is affected. No supplemental indenture may, without the consent of the holders of all outstanding debt securities:

- . extend the final maturity of, reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest on, reduce the principal amount of, or reduce any amount payable on any redemption of, any debt securities without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected; or
- . reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for any supplemental indenture.

20

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Information About the Trustee

Dow maintains banking relationships in the ordinary course of business with the trustee. The trustee's principal corporate trust office is located at 1 Bank One Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60670-0126. The trustee's principal office in New York City is located at 153 West 51st Street, New York, New York 10019.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS TO PURCHASE COMMON STOCK OR PREFERRED STOCK

Dow may issue, alone or together with common stock or preferred stock, stock warrants for the purchase of common stock or preferred stock. The stock warrants will be issued under a stock warrant agreement to be entered into between Dow and a bank or trust company, as stock warrant agent, at the time of issue. A copy of the form of the stock warrant agreement and the stock warrant certificate for both common stock and preferred stock is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The following summary of the material provisions of the stock warrant agreement and the stock warrant certificate does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the stock warrant agreement and the stock warrant certificate, including the defined terms.

General

A prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the stock warrants offered, the stock warrant agreement relating to the stock warrants and the stock warrant certificates representing the stock warrants, including the following:

- . the offering price, if any;
- . the designation and terms of the common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon exercise of the stock warrants;
- . if applicable, the date on and after which the stock warrants and the

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

- related securities will be separately transferable;
- . the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon exercise of one stock warrant and the initial price at which the shares may be purchased upon exercise;
- . the date on which the right to exercise the stock warrants will begin and the date on which the right will expire;
- . a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations;
- . the call provisions, if any;
- . the currency, currencies or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and exercise price are payable;
- . the antidilution provisions of the stock warrants; and
- . any other terms of the stock warrants.

The shares of common stock or preferred stock to be issued upon exercise of the stock warrants will, when issued in accordance with the stock warrant agreement, be fully paid and nonassessable.

21

Exercise of Stock Warrants

Stock warrants may be exercised by surrendering to the stock warrant agent the stock warrant certificate with the form of election to purchase on the reverse side of the certificate duly completed and signed by the warrant holder, or its duly authorized agent, with the signature guaranteed by a bank or trust company, by a broker or dealer which is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. or by a member of a national securities exchange. The form of election should indicate the warrant holder's election to exercise all or a portion of the stock warrants evidenced by the certificate. Surrendered stock warrant certificates must be accompanied by payment of the aggregate exercise price of the stock warrants to be exercised, as set forth in the prospectus supplement. The payment should be made in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement. Upon the stock warrant agent's receipt of the surrendered stock warrant certificates and payment of the aggregate exercise price of the stock warrants, the stock warrant agent will request that the transfer agent issue and deliver to or upon the written order of the exercising warrant holder, a certificate stating the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchased. If less than all of the stock warrants evidenced by any stock warrant certificate are exercised, the stock warrant agent will deliver to the exercising warrant holder a new stock warrant certificate representing the unexercised stock warrants.

No Rights as Stockholders

Holders of stock warrants, by virtue of being holders, will not be entitled to vote, consent, receive dividends, receive notice as shareholder with respect to any meeting of stockholders for election of directors of Dow or any other matter, or exercise any rights whatsoever as stockholders of Dow.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT WARRANTS

Dow may issue, alone or together with debt securities, debt warrants for the purchase of debt securities. The debt warrants will be issued under debt

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

warrant agreements to be entered into between Dow and a bank or trust company, as debt warrant agent, at the time of issue. A copy of the form of the debt warrant agreement and debt warrant certificate is incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The following summary of certain provisions of the debt warrant agreement and the debt warrant certificates does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the debt warrant agreement and the debt warrant certificates, including the defined terms.

General

A prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the debt warrants offered, the debt warrant agreement relating to the debt warrants and the debt warrant certificates representing the debt warrants, including the following:

- . the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the debt warrants;
- . the designation and terms of any related debt securities with which the debt warrants are issued and the number of debt warrants issued with each debt security;
- . the date, if any, on and after which the debt warrants and the related debt securities may be separately transferred;
- . the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of debt warrants and the price at which the principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise;
- . the date on which the right to exercise the debt warrants shall commence and the date on which the right shall expire;

22

- . if the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the debt warrants are original issue discount debt securities, a discussion of the material Federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities; and
- . whether the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form, and, if registered, where they may be transferred and registered.

Debt warrant certificates may be exchanged for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations and debt warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the debt warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement.

No Rights as Holders of Debt Securities

Prior to the exercise of their debt warrants, holders of debt warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon the exercise of debt warrants (except to the extent that consent of holders of debt warrants may be required for modifications of the terms of the indenture pursuant to the terms of the applicable warrant agreement and a series of debt securities issuable upon exercise of the debt warrants). In addition, holders of debt warrants will not be entitled to payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon exercise.

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

Exercise of Debt Warrants

Each debt warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash the principal amount of debt securities at the exercise price set forth or to be determined as set forth in the prospectus supplement. Debt warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised debt warrants will become void.

Debt warrants may be exercised in the manner set forth in the prospectus supplement. Upon receipt of payment and the properly completed and duly executed warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the debt warrant agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement, Dow will, as soon as practicable, forward the debt securities purchased upon any exercise. If less than all of the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificate are exercised, a new debt warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of debt warrants.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Dow may sell the securities:

- . directly to purchasers, or
- . through agents, underwriters, or dealers, or
- . through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

Dow may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

Dow may determine the price or other terms of the securities offered under this prospectus by use of an electronic auction. Dow will describe how any auction will determine the price or any other terms, how potential investors may participate in the auction and the nature of the underwriters' obligations in the related supplement to this prospectus.

23

Dow may designate agents to solicit offers to purchase the securities from time to time. These agents may be deemed to be underwriters, as defined in the Securities Act of 1933, involved in the offer or sale of the securities. The prospectus supplement will name the agents and any commissions Dow pays them. Agents may be entitled to indemnification by Dow against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, under agreements between Dow and the agents, and the agents or their affiliates may extend credit to or engage in transactions with or perform services for Dow in the ordinary course of business. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any agent will be acting on a reasonable efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

If Dow uses any underwriters in the sale of any of the securities, Dow will enter into an underwriting agreement with them at the time of sale and the names of the underwriters and the terms of the transaction will be set forth in the prospectus supplement that the underwriters use to make resales of the securities. The underwriters may be entitled under the relevant underwriting agreement to indemnification by Dow against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, and the underwriters or their

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

affiliates may extend credit to or engage in transactions with or perform services for Dow in the ordinary course of business.

If Dow uses dealers in the sale of the securities, Dow will sell the securities to those dealers, as principal. The dealers may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by them at the time of resale. Dealers may be entitled to indemnification by Dow against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, and the dealers or their affiliates may extend credit to or engage in transactions with or perform services for Dow in the ordinary course of business.

Shares of Dow common stock are principally traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Shares of Dow common stock also are listed on the Chicago, Pacific, Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hannover, London, Paris, Switzerland and Tokyo exchanges and are traded on the Toronto, Boston, Cincinnati and Philadelphia Exchanges. Other than the common stock and unless otherwise disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement, Dow does not propose to list the offered securities on a securities exchange, and any underwriters or dealers will not be obligated to make a market in the offered securities. Dow may elect to list any series of offered securities on an exchange, and in the case of the common stock, on any additional exchange, but, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, Dow will not be obligated to do so. Dow can give no assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the offered securities.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for Dow by Charles J. Kalil, Dow's Assistant General Counsel and for any underwriters or agents by Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, Chicago, Illinois. As of May 31, 2002, Mr. Kalil beneficially owned 6,794 shares of Dow common stock, and held options to purchase 77,050 shares of Dow common stock, of which options to purchase 47,966 shares of Dow common stock were exercisable. The opinions of Mr. Kalil and Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw may be conditioned upon and may be subject to assumptions regarding, future action required to be taken by Dow and any underwriter(s), dealer(s) or agent(s) in connection with the issuance and sale of any securities. The opinions of Mr. Kalil and Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw with respect to securities may be subject to other conditions and assumptions, as indicated in the prospectus supplement. Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw from time to time represents Dow in connection with certain matters.

EXPERTS

The Dow consolidated financial statements and related financial statement schedule incorporated in this prospectus by reference to Dow's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 have been

24

audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference (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 have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm, given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing. The consolidated balance sheet of Union Carbide Corporation ("Union Carbide") and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2000, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2000 (not

Edgar Filing: DOW CHEMICAL CO /DE/ - Form 424B3

presented separately therein) incorporated in this registration statement by reference to Dow's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001 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. Such consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Dow files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You may read and copy that information at the Commission's Public Reference Room located at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information relating to the Public Reference Room. You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the Public Reference Section of the Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates.

The Commission also maintains an Internet world wide web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information about issuers, including Dow, that file electronically with the Commission. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>.

You can also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about Dow at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The Commission allows Dow to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus. This means that Dow can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the Commission. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, except for any information that is superseded by information that is included directly in this document.

This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that Dow has previously filed with the Commission. The documents contain important information about Dow and Dow's financial condition.

Dow's Filings with the Commission -----	Period -----
Annual Report on Form 10-K.....	Year ended December 31, 2001
Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q..	Quarter ended March 31, 2002
	Quarter ended June 30, 2002
Current Reports on Form 8-K.....	January 3, 2002
	January 31, 2002
	April 25, 2002
	July 25, 2002
	August 13, 2002
	August 26, 2002

Dow also incorporates by reference any future filings it makes with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (1) after the date of the filing of this registration statement and before its effectiveness and (2) until Dow has sold all of the securities to which this prospectus relates or the offering is otherwise terminated. Dow's subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission will automatically update and supersede information in this

prospectus.

25

You may obtain a copy of any of the documents incorporated by reference in this registration statement at no cost by writing to or telephoning Dow at the following address and telephone number:

Office of the Corporate Secretary
The Dow Chemical Company
2030 Dow Center
Midland, Michigan 48674
Telephone: 989-636-1792

Dow has not authorized anyone to give any information or make any representation about Dow that is different from, or in addition to, that contained in this prospectus or in any of the materials that have been incorporated into this document. Therefore, if anyone does give you information of this sort, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is an offer to sell or buy only the securities described in this document, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this registration statement speaks only as of the date of this document unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

26

=====

[DOW LOGO APPEARS HERE]

§

The Dow Chemical Company

% Notes due

Prospectus Supplement
,

Banc of America Securities LLC

JPMorgan

=====