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# BUSINESS



Staff photo by BOB ELLIS

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## Plant to be sold to foreign buyers

By LARRY SHAW

Business editor, The Oregonian

Union Carbide has entered into an agreement in principle to sell a portion of its metals business including a ferroalloy facility in the St. Johns area.

Union Carbide said Wednesday it would sell 10 of its metals plants, five of them in the United States, to Elkem-Spigerverket of Norway, Shieldings Investments Ltd., of Canada and a group of Norwegian investors. Union Carbide will gain about \$285 million in the transaction, including cash and the assumption by the buyers of an unspecified amount of debt obligation.

The deal is expected to be consummated by the end of the year pending government approval as well as approval by the boards of directors of the companies involved.

Union Carbide's St. Johns facility was established in 1942 and produces ferroalloys of manganese and silicon for the foundry and steel business.

Plant manager Robert Forgeng said the facility, located on 80 acres, employs between 130 and 180 persons, depending upon business conditions.

The plant had three submerged arc electric furnances.

Forgeng said he anticipated no change in operations once the deal is complete.

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Elkem-Spigerverket is the largest non-government enterprise in Norway, employing approximately 9,500 persons at more than 30 plants throughout the world. It has six divisions including steel, manufactured products, ferroalloys, engineering, mining and aluminum.

Shielding Investments Ltd. is an affiliate of the Canadian Investments firms, Greenshields, Inc.

Union Carbide had 1979 revenues of \$9.2 billion and profits of more than \$400 million.

Union Carbide Chairman William S. Sneath said the decision to sell its metals business was based on the corporation's continued program to withdraw from businesses that no longer fit its long-term strategic plans.