Sonoco to Close Benicia, Calif., Plant

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Jan. 30 /PRNewswire/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON) today announced that it will close its composite can plant in Benicia, Calif., and serve its Benicia plant customers from other Company locations. The closing is expected to be completed by the end of July 2001.

(Photo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO)

The Benicia facility, located at 4347 Iowa Street, was acquired by Sonoco in 1985 and currently employs 23 people. The Company will offer out-placement assistance and alternative employment or severance benefits.

"I regret having to close the Benicia plant and the effect of that closure on the local communities. The people here have been dedicated employees for 15 years and we very much appreciate their contributions to Sonoco. Unfortunately, this action is necessary to maintain our cost effectiveness and to continue our value commitment to our customers. This consolidation will not affect our ability to serve the Benicia plant customers," said Rodger Fuller - Consumer Products Division Vice President - North America.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.7 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 275 operations in 33 countries serving customers in 85 nations. For more information on the Company, visit our website at www.sonoco.com.
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