# Sonoco to Close High Density Film Plant in California

April 23, 2002

HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 23 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the largest U.S. manufacturer of high density polyethylene (HDPE) bags for the grocery, retail and convenience store industries, will close its bag plant in Santa Maria, Calif., and consolidate those operations into lower-cost facilities, it was announced today by Harry J. Moran, executive vice president.

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

The Santa Maria facility employs 95 personnel. Some employees will be offered transfers within Sonoco, and outplacement assistance will be provided to all others. The plant is expected to close in late June 2002.

Customers previously served from this plant will now be served from Sonoco's continuing operations at Victoria, Texas; North Vernon, Ind.; Mt. Olive, N.C.; Milesburg, Pa.; and, Hartsville, S.C.

"This action is part of the company's ongoing manufacturing productivity and quality improvements, to ensure the Company's ability to maintain its leadership position and continue meeting the needs of its customers," stated Moran.

"Closing a plant is never easy. However, this action is necessary to continue providing the highest level of quality, service and innovation, as well as to grow our position in the very competitive bag business," said Rex E. Varn, division vice president and general manager -- High Density Film Products.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.6 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 operations in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations.

MAKE YOUR OPINION COUNT - Click Here

http://tbutton.prnewswire.com/prn/11690X65681365
SOURCE Sonoco
Web site: http: //www.sonoco.com
Photo: NewsCom: http: //www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19991006/SNCLOGO AP Archive: http://photoarchive.ap.org PRN Photo Desk, 888-776-6555 or 212-782-2840
CONTACT: Allan V. Cecil, Vice President, Sonoco, +1-843-383-7524, or allan.cecil@sonoco.com
CAPTION: SNCLOGO SONOCO LOGO Sonoco Logo. (PRNewsFoto)[KC] HARTSVILLE, SC USA 10/06/1999