Sonoco to Close Fulton, N.Y., Flexible Packaging Plant

August 20, 2003

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Aug. 20 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that it will close its flexible packaging plant in Fulton, N.Y. The closing will be phased over the remainder of this year, with completion expected around the end of the first quarter of 2004. The Fulton operations will be consolidated into Sonoco's flexible packaging plants at Edinburgh, Ind., and Morristown, Tenn. This consolidation is part of the Company's previously announced plans to reduce its average cost structure by more than $60 million and is expected to result in significant savings.

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

The plant, located at 6 Morrill Place, has approximately 130 employees. The Company will offer outplacement assistance and in some cases will offer transfers to other Sonoco operations. Sonoco acquired the Fulton facility in 1993. The plant produces flexible packaging for confectionery, snacks and home and personal care products.

"It is always difficult to close a facility, particularly when you have people as dedicated as our team at the Fulton facility. Unfortunately, this action is necessary to reduce Sonoco's overall cost structure in light of difficult general economic conditions and rising costs associated with raw materials, energy, medical, and pensions and postretirement expenses. These consolidations will in no way adversely affect our ability to serve our markets and customers," said Thomas L. Coker, division vice president, Flexible Packaging.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.8 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. For more information on the Company, visit its Web site www.sonoco.com.

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