Sonoco to Close Two Plants in Atlanta

November 24, 2003

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Nov. 24 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that it will close its paper mill and tube and core plants in Atlanta. Both facilities are located at 2490 Marietta Road.

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

The paper mill, which has 47 employees, will close immediately, while the tube and core plant, which has 41 employees, will have a phased closing expected to be completed by the end of February 2004. Sonoco will offer outplacement assistance and in some cases will offer transfers to other Sonoco operations.

These changes are part of Sonoco's previously announced plans to reduce further its overall cost structure by approximately $54 million, including the closing of an additional 15 to 20 plants globally.

"Closing facilities, with its inherent impact on employees, is never an easy decision. Unfortunately, such actions are necessary in today's globally competitive environment with continued difficult general economic conditions," said Jim C. Bowen, Senior Vice President, global paper operations, and Ronald E. Holley, Senior Vice President, global industrial products. Current customers of both facilities will continue to be served from other Sonoco operations.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 300 operations in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. Additional information about the Company is available on its Web site at www.sonoco.com.

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