SONOCO TO CLOSE CHESTER PLANT

November 11, 2005

Hartsville, S.C. – Sonoco (NYSE: SON), the global packaging company, today announced that it will close its tube and core manufacturing plant in Chester, Va., as part of the Company's previously announced plans to reduce its cost structure. The plant closing will be phased over the first half of 2006.

The Chester operation, located 1701 W. Hundred St., will be consolidated into other Sonoco facilities in the region. The plant employs 37 workers and primarily manufactures tubes and cores for the textile industry. Sonoco has operated the plant since 1973.

“Closing a facility such as Chester is always difficult, especially with such excellent employees who take great pride in their work and service to customers,” said M. Jack Sanders, vice president, Industrial Products Division – North America. “Sonoco has adequate capacity to absorb the volume from the Chester plant, and the closing will not impact Company's capability to serve its markets and customers.”

About Sonoco

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 35 countries serving customers in 85 nations. Additional information about Sonoco is available at http://www.sonoco.com.