

Sonoco's Hartselle, Alabama, Reel Operations Undamaged by Violent Weather

May 3, 2011 8:03 AM ET

Both Plants Up and Running Using Backup Power

HARTSVILLE, S.C., May 03, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON), one of the largest diversified global packaging companies, announced today that neither its Hartselle steel reels plant or nailwood/plywood reel producing plant received any damage as a result of last week's violent weather in Alabama. Although the Hartselle area remains impacted by storm-related power outages, both plants are currently operating using power produced by backup generators.

"Fortunately, none of our associates in Hartselle were physically injured by the dangerous storms," said James Harrell, vice president, Industrial Carriers, N.A. "Both plants suffered temporary disruptions in service due to the power outages, so our Jefferson, Texas, Sonoco Reels plant operated throughout the weekend to handle any unexpected customer emergencies.

"Both our steel reels plant and the nailwood/plywood reels plant were switched to back-up generators over the weekend and are currently operating," added Harrell. "Because it's unclear how long both facilities will be on temporary power, we are asking our customers to work closely with their normal customer service contacts to distinguish between forecast and more immediate demand requirements."

Sonoco Reels is the most comprehensive provider of reels produced from nailed wood, plywood, poly-fibers, molded plastic and steel materials. Reels produced by Sonoco are used by the wire and cable industry to serve the power transmission and distribution; telecommunications; commercial and industrial building; oil and gas; mining and marine industries.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco is a \$4.1 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 34 countries, serving customers in some 85 nations. Sonoco is a proud member of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index. For more information on the Company, visit our website at www.sonoco.com.

SOURCE: Sonoco

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