



## **Sonoco To Close Shepherd Plant Operations**

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Jan. 24 /PRNewswire/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON) today announced that it will close its tube plant in Shepherd, Michigan, and serve its Shepherd plant customers from other Company locations in the Midwest. The closing is expected to be completed by the end of June 2001.

The Shepherd facility, located at 525 North 2nd Street, was opened by Sonoco in 1974 and currently employs 22 people. The Company will offer out-placement assistance and in some cases will offer transfers to other Sonoco operations.

"It is always difficult to close an operation, especially when you have people as dedicated as our Shepherd team and a community as supportive as Shepherd. Unfortunately, this action is necessary to optimize our overall cost effectiveness and support our commitment to providing the highest value for our customers. This consolidation will in no way affect our ability to serve the markets and customers in the Michigan area," said Ronnie Holley - senior vice president, global industrial products/molded plastics.

Sonoco founded in 1899, is a \$2.5 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, with approximately 285 operations in 33 countries serving customers in 85 nations. For more information on the Company, visit our website at [www.sonoco.com](http://www.sonoco.com).

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