



Sonoco to Close Woodyard and Crosstie Operations

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., April 6 /PRNewswire/ -- Sonoco (NYSE: SON) will permanently close its woodyard and related crosstie mill in Hartsville. This was announced today by Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Employees of these operations, 22 hourly and three salaried, will be offered jobs in other departments. They will also be given the option of selecting severance pay or regular retirement if 55 or older. The Forest Products division office and forest resource staff will remain with responsibility for woodchip procurement and production.

The woodyard converts longwood to woodchips for the Company's only paper machine that utilizes virgin pulp. This machine is dedicated to making corrugating medium on a fee basis for Georgia-Pacific. The crosstie mill converts roundwood into railroad ties and pallet carts.

A four-employee chip handling department will be organized to unload and process woodchips, handle bark fuel and maintain equipment. All woodchips will be produced by in-woods, portable contract chip harvesting crews and delivered to Hartsville in vans.

"We expect this changeover to occur over a two to three month period," said DeLoach.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a \$2.5 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products with over 285 operations in 33 countries serving customers in some 85 nations.

SOURCE Sonoco

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