FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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OMB APPROVAL

| - 1 |                          |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|     | OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* SULLIVAN CHARLES L JR   |   |                     |   |      | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONOCO PRODUCTS CO [ SON ] |            |                                   |  |                | (Ch  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner  Officer (give title Other (specify                |  |   |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------|---|------|--|------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| (Last) ONE NO  | ,   | First) OND STREET   | (Middle)  |      | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/23/2003            |            |                                   |  |                |  |  | X Officer (give title Officer (specify below))  RR VP-GLOBAL CONSUMER PRODUCTS |   |  |   |                                       |
| (Street) HARTSVILLE SC 29550  (City) (State) (Zip)   |   |                     |   |      | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)               |            |                                   |  |                | Line   | 5. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |  |   |  |   |                                       |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |   |                     |   |      |  |            |                                   |  |                |  |  |  |   |  |   |                                       |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transac Date (Month/Date)  |   |                     |   |      | Execution Date,  |            | Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. |  |                | rities Acquired (A) or<br>rd Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and ! |  | 5. Amoun<br>Securities<br>Beneficia<br>Owned Fo                                | s<br>lly<br>ollowing (                              | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4)  | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |                                       |
|  |   |                     |   |      |  |            |                                   | Code   | / Am           | ount (A) or (D)  |  | r<br>Price   | Transacti<br>(Instr. 3 a                            | on(s)  |   | (111511.4)                            |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |                     |   |      |  |            |                                   |  |                |  |  |  |   |  |   |                                       |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | se (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Code | action<br>(Instr.  | Derivative |                                   | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                | and  | 7. Title and Amount<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)  |  | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s) | Ownershi<br>Form:<br>y Direct (D)<br>or Indirec<br>(I) (Instr. 4  | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |   |                     |   | Code | v  | (A)        | (D)                               | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expira<br>Date | ition  | Title  | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares  |   | (Instr. 4)   |   |                                       |
| Phantom<br>Stock<br>Units  | (1)   | 12/23/2003          |   | A    |  | 55.8312    |                                   | (2)  | (2)            |  | Common<br>Stock  | 55.8312  | \$24.18   | 1,699.961  | 16 D  |                                       |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. 1-for-1
- 2. The reported phantom stock units were acquired under Sonoco Products Company's excess benefit plan and will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

By: George S. Hartley For: Charles L. Sullivan, Jr.

12/24/2003

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.