

SONOCO PRODUCTS CO
Form 4
December 29, 2008

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Saunders Barry L

(Last) (First) (Middle)
ONE NORTH SECOND STREET
(Street)

HARTSVILLE, SC 29550

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
SONOCO PRODUCTS CO [SON]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
12/23/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
VP, Corp Controller & CAO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 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. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Code V Amount (D) Price		

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

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(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Instr. 3)	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 5)	(Instr. 6)	(Instr. 7)	(Instr. 8)	(Instr. 9)	(Instr. 10)
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		
Phantom Stock Units	(1)	12/23/2008	A		36.541		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	36.541	\$	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Saunders Barry L ONE NORTH SECOND STREET HARTSVILLE, SC 29550			VP, Corp Controller & CAO	

Signatures

By: George S. Hartley - Power of Attorney For: Barry L. Saunders

12/29/2008

Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* 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).

(1) Each share of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of Sonoco Products Company common stock.

(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.

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

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