

Frequently Asked Questions

Q.) Why is the plant closing?

A.) The plant closure is primarily due to overall facility performance within the increasingly competitive international tire market. This difficult decision follows a multi-year analysis of the company's financial situation and general market conditions. We understand that this is a challenging time for everyone involved, and we are committed to supporting our employees and vendors through this transition.

Q.) What is the timeline for the plant closure?

A.) Production at the plant will cease as of November 7, 2024. The company will subsequently discuss and bargain the effects of the shutdown on the union labor force with union leadership beginning on November 13, 2024. Non-union labor and management workforce issues will be addressed separately. During this transition period, SRUSA will be working diligently to ensure a smooth and orderly shutdown, while also providing support to employees, vendors, and customers while fulfilling any outstanding obligations.

Q.) Will there be any job losses?

A.) Yes, there will be job losses at the Tonawanda facility due to the plant closure. The company anticipates the number of employees impacted will total approximately 1,200 hourly (union) associates and roughly 350+ salaried positions.

Q.) When will layoffs begin?

A.) We will discuss and bargain the effects of the shutdown on the union labor force with union leadership. Non-union labor and management workforce issues will also be addressed concurrently. The exact timing of individual layoffs will be determined based on operational needs and transition plans.

Q.) Why is there no plan to try and save the plant?

A.) Management made sincere efforts to try and save the plant. These efforts included the pursuit of various strategies and options, investments in advanced machinery and equipment, development of a turnaround plan, and other such activities over many years. Identifying a buyer for the facility was also pursued, though no offers were ever tendered.

Q.) Will plant operations be moved to another state or overseas?

A.) It is likely that SRUSA's technical center will remain in the U.S. Existing tire production will be shifted amongst the existing Sumitomo Rubber Industries (SRI) global production footprint.

Q.) What impact will the plant closure have on the WNY economy?

A.) As a longstanding corporate citizen in Western New York, the company understands that this closure will impact the local community. SRUSA is committed to supporting our employees and exploring opportunities to mitigate the effects of the closure.

Q.) Will the plant closure have any environmental impact?

A.) No such impacts are anticipated, and the company intends to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible transition of the facility and property.

Q.) What will happen to the plant site after it closes?

A.) At this time, SRUSA's primary focus is on a well-managed closure process. Future site activity and plans are yet to be determined.

Q.) Where can I find more information about the closure?

A.) Additional closure details are now available on the company's temporary web page at <https://srusa-tonawanda-update.com>. Any employment related questions may be directed to questions@sumitomorubber-usa.com. Media inquiries may be directed to media@sumitomorubber-usa.com.

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