

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117**

[CGD05-06-071]

RIN 1625-AA-09

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Potomac River, Between Maryland and Virginia**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.**ACTION:** Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, has approved a temporary deviation from the regulations governing the operation of the new Woodrow Wilson Memorial (I-95) Bridge, mile 103.8, across Potomac River between Alexandria, Virginia and Oxon Hill, Maryland. This deviation allows the new drawbridge to remain closed-to-navigation each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning on June 26, 2006 until and including August 25, 2006, to facilitate completion of the Outer Loop portion for the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge construction project.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 10 a.m. on June 26, 2006, until 2 p.m. on August 25, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Materials referred to in this document are available for inspection or copying at Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 1st Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (757) 398-6222. Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District maintains the public docket for this temporary deviation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Waverly W. Gregory, Jr., Bridge Administrator, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398-6222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 11, 2006, the southernmost portion of the bascule spans for the new Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, at mile 103.8, across Potomac River between Alexandria, Virginia and Oxon Hill, Maryland was publicly placed into service, switching I-95 Northbound traffic onto the new Outer Loop portion of the bridge. The newly-constructed portion of bridge will be required to open for vessels in accordance with the current drawbridge operating regulations set out in 33 CFR 117.255(c).

While the drawbridge is operational, coordinators for the construction of the

new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project indicated that the bascule span is not yet fully commissioned and the work continues through the rigorous testing phase. Opening the new bascule span for a vessel at this time would take approximately 45 minutes in a best case scenario. This has the potential to have a significant impact upon I-95 traffic, especially during the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. bridge-opening time frame currently available for commercial vessels, in accordance with 33 CFR 117.255(c).

Coordinators requested a temporary deviation from the current operating regulation for the new Woodrow Wilson Memorial (I-95) Bridge set out in 33 CFR 117.255(c). The coordinators requested that the new Outer Loop portion of the new drawbridge not be available for openings for vessels each day between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Monday, June 26 through August 25, 2006 or until the bridge is properly commissioned, whichever comes first. The temporary deviation will only affect vessels with mast heights of 75 feet or greater as the existing drawbridge is able to open in accordance with the current operating regulations set out in 33 CFR 117.255(a). Management of the Federal and auxiliary channels will continue to be closely coordinated between the coordinators for the construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, the Coast Guard and vessels requesting transit through the construction zone. Furthermore, all affected vessels with mast heights greater than 75 feet will be able to receive an opening of the new drawbridge in the "off-peak" vehicle traffic hours (evening and overnight) in accordance with 33 CFR 117.255(c). Maintaining the existing drawbridge in the closed-to-navigation position each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning on June 26, 2006 through August 25, 2006 will help reduce the impact to vehicular traffic during this phase of new bridge construction.

The Coast Guard has informed the known users of the waterway of the closure period for the bridge so that these vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(c), this work will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: June 23, 2006.

Waverly W. Gregory, Jr.,*Chief, Bridge Administration Branch, Fifth Coast Guard District.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117**

[CGD05-06-070]

RIN 1625-AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Potomac River, Between Maryland and Virginia**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is issuing temporary regulations that govern the operation of the new Woodrow Wilson Memorial (I-95) Bridge, mile 103.8, across Potomac River between Alexandria, Virginia and Oxon Hill, Maryland. This temporary final rule establishes the same operating requirements for the new drawbridge that is currently in effect for the existing-to-be-removed drawbridge.

DATES: This rule is effective midnight on June 20, 2006 to 11:59 on June 12, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Documents, indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket CGD05-06-070 and are available for inspection or copying at Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 1st Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Fifth Coast Guard District maintains the public docket for this rulemaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Waverly W. Gregory, Jr., Bridge Administrator, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398-6222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Good Cause for Not Publishing an NPRM**

We did not publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for this regulation. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing an NPRM. This temporary final rule establishes the same operating requirements for the new drawbridge that is currently in effect for the existing-to-be-removed drawbridge.