DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG–2011–0041]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Hackensack River, Jersey City, NJ

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the Lower Hack Bridge across the Hackensack River, mile 3.4, at Jersey City, New Jersey. The deviation is necessary to repair structural steel members on the lift span. This deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed position to facilitate the above repairs.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 7 a.m. on February 19, 2011 through 8 p.m. on February 26, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket USCG–2011–0041 and are available online at http://www.regulations.gov, inserting USCG–2011–0041 in the “Keyword” and then clicking “Search”. They are also available for inspection or copying by the Docket Management Facility (M–30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or e-mail Mr. Joe Arca, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, joe.m.arca@uscg.mil, telephone (212) 668–7165. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Lower Hack Bridge, across the Hackensack River at mile 3.4, has a vertical clearance of 46 feet at mean high water and 45 feet at mean low water. The existing drawbridge operations regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.723(b).

The waterway has commercial vessels of various sizes. The owner of the bridge, New Jersey Transit, requested a temporary deviation to facilitate necessary structural steel repairs at the bridge.
Under this temporary deviation the Lower Hack Bridge, across the Hackensack River at mile 3.4, may remain in the closed position from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m. on February 19, 2011, with a rain date of February 26, 2011. Vessels that can pass under the bridge without a bridge opening may do so at all times.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the bridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the designated time period. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: February 4, 2011.

Gary Kassof,
Bridge Program Manager, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2011–3571 Filed 2–16–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG–2010–1103]

RIN 1625–AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Curtis Creek, Baltimore, MD

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is temporarily changing the drawbridge operation regulations of the Pennington Avenue Bridge, across Curtis Creek, mile 0.9, at Baltimore, MD. This temporary change allows the bridge to operate on a restricted schedule to complete structural repairs and replacement of the grid deck, floor beams and stringers.

DATES: This temporary final rule is effective from 6 a.m. on February 17, 2011 to 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket USCG–2010–1103 and are available online by going to http://www.regulations.gov, inserting USCG–2010–1103 in the “Keyword” box, and clicking “Search.” This material is also available for inspection or copying at the Docket Management Facility (M–30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call Bill H. Brazier, Bridge Management Specialist, Fifth Coast Guard District; telephone 757–398–6422, e-mail Bill.H.Brazier@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202–366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary final rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because after the current repair project began extensive additional repairs and replacements were identified. This additional work will require additional time to complete. The corresponding request to revise the operating schedule for this temporary final rule also required extensive coordination with the known affected marine facilities (i.e., the Coast Guard Yard and the U.S. Army Reserve Unit), the City of Baltimore, MD, and the contractor so that necessary repairs can continue to the Pennington Avenue Bridge. The timing of the discovery of the additional repairs and replacements combined with the length of time to coordinate with the affected parties makes it impractical to publish an NPRM and still continue the work as scheduled. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective in less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register for the same reasons stated in the preceding paragraph.

Basis and Purpose

The City of Baltimore, MD, who owns and operates this double-leaf bascule drawbridge, has requested a temporary change from the current general operating regulation set out in 33 CFR 117.5 that requires the bridge to open promptly and fully for the passage of vessels when a request to open is given, to complete structural repairs.

The Pennington Avenue Bridge has a vertical clearance in the closed position to vessels of 38 feet, above mean high water. Regular users of the waterway consist of Coast Guard vessels bound for the Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay, as well as a significant amount of commercial vessels that pass through the bridge.

On August 17, 2010, we published a notice of temporary deviation from regulation entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Curtis Creek, Baltimore, MD” in the Federal Register (74 FR 50707). The temporary deviation allowed the bridge to operate on a restricted schedule to facilitate structural repairs from August 5, 2010 to December 1, 2010. During completion of structural repairs, the drawbridge with four lift spans will provide full and partial openings of the spans for vessels on several dates and times from February 17, 2011 to November 30, 2011. During the replacement of the grid deck, floor beams and stringers, the drawbridge will be maintained in closed position to vessels to include immobilizing half of the draw spans to single-leaf operation.

Discussion of Rule

The Coast Guard is temporarily amending 33 CFR 117.557 by inserting new paragraphs (a) and (b). Paragraph (a) will contain the temporary rule for the Pennington Avenue Bridge at mile 0.9 in Baltimore, MD. The rule will allow the draw of the bridge to operate as follows: (1) Need not open from 6 a.m. on February 17, 2011 to 11:59 p.m. on January 20, 2011; except, vessel openings shall be provided on signal if at least two hours advance notice is given; (2) Single-leaf operation on the southeast side span from 11:59 p.m. on January 20, 2011 to 11:59 p.m. on February 12, 2011. The opposite connecting spans on the north side while not under repair shall continue to open on signal for vessels; (3) Need not open from 11:59 p.m. on February 12, 2011 to 11:59 p.m. on March 6, 2011; except, vessel openings shall be provided on signal if at least two hours advance notice is given; (4) Single-leaf operation on the southwest side span from 11:59 p.m. on March 6, 2011 to 11:59 p.m. on March 28, 2011. The opposite connecting spans on the north side while not under repair shall continue to open on signal for vessels; (5) Need not open from 11:59 p.m. on March 28, 2011 to 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2011; except, vessel openings shall be provided on signal if at least two hours advance notice is given.

Paragraph (b) will contain the existing regulations for the I695 Bridge, mile 1.0, at Baltimore, MD.

The temporary regulation will not significantly disrupt vessel traffic since