

Dated: October 18, 2011.

Waverly W. Gregory, Jr.,

*Bridge Program Manager, By direction of the Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 2011-27721 Filed 10-25-11; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

#### 33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2011-0972]

#### Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Nanticoke, Seaford, DE

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

**SUMMARY:** The Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the SR 13 Bridge across the Nanticoke River, mile 39.6, at Seaford, DE. The deviation is necessary to accommodate the cleaning and painting of the bridge. This deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed position throughout the month of November to facilitate the maintenance work.

**DATES:** This deviation is effective from 12:01 a.m. on November 1, 2011 to 11:59 on November 30, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket USCG-2011-0972 and are available online by going to <http://www.regulations.gov>, inserting USCG-2011-0972 in the "Keyword" box and then clicking "Search". They are 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 or e-mail Lindsey Middleton, Bridge Management Specialist, Coast Guard; telephone 757-398-6629, e-mail [Lindsey.R.Middleton@uscg.mil](mailto:Lindsey.R.Middleton@uscg.mil). If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-366-9826.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Marinis Bros. Inc., on behalf of Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), has requested a temporary deviation from the current operating regulation of

the SR 13 Bridge across the Nanticoke River, mile 39.6, at Seaford, DE. The requested deviation is to accommodate painting and cleaning of the bridge. The vertical clearance of this single-leaf bascule bridge is three feet at mean high water (MHW) in the closed position and unlimited in the open position. During this deviation period, the vertical clearance will be limited to one foot at MHW due to the scaffolding that will be used for the maintenance of the bridge. The bridge will remain in the closed position for the entire month. In critical situations the bridge will be able to open if at least 24 hours of notice is given. There are no alternate routes available to vessels.

The current operating schedule for the bridge is set out in 33 CFR 117.243(b). According to that schedule, during the month of November the bridge shall open on signal, except that from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday and 3:30 p.m. through 7:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, if at least four hours notice is given.

Logs from November 2010 have shown that there were 20 openings for the entire month. Sixteen of those openings were on November 13th and 14th. The openings were due to a Bass Fishing Tournament; however, the tournament is not scheduled for this year minimizing the amount of anticipated openings. The majority of vessel traffic utilizing this waterway is recreational boaters. There is one mariner that requests most of the bridge openings throughout the winter months. Marinis Bros., Inc. has coordinated with this mariner. DelDOT has coordinated with the town concerning the month long bridge closure as well. The Coast Guard will inform all other users of the waterway through our Local and Broadcast Notices to Mariners so that mariners can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation. The Coast Guard will also require the bridge owner to post signs on either side of the bridge notifying mariners of the temporary regulation change.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge 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: October 12, 2011.

Waverly W. Gregory, Jr.,

*Bridge Program Manager, Fifth Coast Guard District.*

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## POSTAL SERVICE

### 39 CFR Part 241

#### Post Office Organization and Administration: Establishment, Classification, and Discontinuance

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service is amending its regulations to improve the administration of the Post Office closing and consolidation process. This final rule adopts changes to Postal Service regulations pertaining to the definition of "consolidation" and the staffing of Post Offices.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* December 1, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Boldt, (202) 268-6799.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 31, 2011, the Postal Service published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 17794) to improve the process for discontinuing Post Offices and other Postal Service-operated retail facilities. The proposed rule also included various proposals to apply certain discontinuance procedures to all retail facilities operated by Postal Service employees. The Postal Service requested comments on the proposed rule.

On July 13, 2011, the Postal Service published an initial final rule (76 FR 41413), with minor corrections published on July 21, 2011 (76 FR 43898). That final rule responded to comments and made numerous changes from the proposed rule, resulting in revised regulations that took effect on July 14, 2011. In the final rule, the Postal Service noted that certain aspects of the proposed rule were subject to then-ongoing consultations under 39 U.S.C. 1004(b)-(d). As a result, the first final rule implemented only changes to 39 CFR part 241 that were not subject to ongoing consultations. 76 FR 41413. The Postal Service advised that changes subject to consultation—namely, those concerning the definition of "consolidation" and the staffing of Post Offices—were being deferred and could be addressed in a subsequent final rule. *Id.* at 41414-15.

At this time, the consultations referenced in the first final rule have run their course, and the Postal Service is prepared to issue the remaining proposed changes, with minor modifications as explained in section III below. Analysis of the pertinent comments received appears below. With the changes described herein, the final rule will take effect upon the publication of corresponding changes in