DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG–2013–0677]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Snohomish River, Everett, WA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the SR 529 twin bridges across the Snohomish, mile 3.6, near Everett, WA. The deviation is necessary to facilitate heavy maintenance and equipment upgrades on the bridges. This deviation allows the bridges to remain in the closed position during maintenance activities.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 12:01 a.m. on September 3, 2013 to 11:59 p.m. on October 18, 2013.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, [USCG–2013–0677] is available at http://www.regulations.gov. Type the docket number in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH.” Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the Department of Transportation West Building, 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 temporary deviation, call or email Lieutenant Commander Steven M. Fischer, Bridge Specialist, Coast Guard Thirteenth District; telephone 206–220–7277, email Steven.M.Fischer2@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Barbara Hairston, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202–366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has requested that the SR 529 twin bridges across the Snohomish River remain closed to vessel traffic to facilitate heavy maintenance and equipment upgrades on the bridges. The SR 529 twin bridges cross the Snohomish River at mile 3.6 and provide 38 feet of vertical clearance above mean high water elevation while in the closed position. Vessels which do not require a bridge opening may continue to transit beneath the bridges.

The Snohomish River is an alternate route for vessels with mast heights greater than 10 feet. The Coast Guard will inform the users of the waterway through our Local and Broadcast Notices to Mariners of the closure periods so that vessels can plan their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation. At other times during the affected period, the bridge will operate as outlined at 33 CFR 117.733(f).

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: August 21, 2013.

Waverly W. Gregory, Jr.,
Bridge Program Manager, Fifth Coast Guard District.

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during this closure period. Under normal conditions the SR 529 Bridges crossing the Snohomish River operate in accordance with 33 CFR 117.1059(c) which requires advance notification of one-hour when a bridge opening is needed. This deviation period is from 12:01 a.m. on 3 September 2013 to 11:59 p.m. on 18 October 2013. The deviation allows the SR 529 Bridges crossing the Snohomish River, to remain in the closed position and need not open for maritime traffic from 12:01 a.m. on 3 September 2013 to 11:59 p.m. on 18 October 2013. The bridges shall operate in accordance to 33 CFR 117.1059 at all other times. Waterway usage on the Snohomish River includes vessels ranging from commercial tug and barge to small pleasure craft. Mariners will be notified and kept informed of the bridges’ operational status via the construction contractor performing the maintenance as well as via the Coast Guard Notice to Mariners publication and Broadcast Notice to Mariners as appropriate. The bridges will not be able to open during this maintenance activity because the lifting mechanisms will be inoperable. In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridges must return to their regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the effective period of this temporary deviation. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: August 19, 2013.

Daryl R. Peloquin,
Acting Bridge Administrator, Thirteenth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2013–21174 Filed 8–29–13; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117
[Docket No. USCG–2013–0252]
RIN 1625–AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Wolf River, Gills Landing and Winneconne, WI

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is revising the operating schedule that governs the Winneconne Highway Bridge at Mile 2.4, and the Canadian National Railroad Bridge at mile 27.8, both over the Wolf River. A review of the current regulation was requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) and the Canadian National Railroad. DATES: This rule is effective on September 30, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Documents mentioned in this preamble are part of docket USCG–2013–0252. To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to http://www.regulations.gov, type the docket number in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH.” Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this rulemaking. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the Department of Transportation West Building, 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 email Mr. Lee Soule, Bridge Management Specialist, Ninth Coast Guard District; telephone (216) 902–6085, email Lee.D.Soule@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Barbara HAirston, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202–366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Acronyms

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
DHS Department of Homeland Security
FR Federal Register
NPRM Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
§ Section Symbol

A. Regulatory History and Information

On May 10, 2013, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled, “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Wolf River, Gills Landing and Winneconne, WI” in the Federal Register (78 FR 72336). We did not receive any comments on the proposed rule. No public meeting was requested, and none was held.

B. Basis and Purpose

The Wolf River extends from its head of navigation in New London, WI and travels south to Winneconne, WI where it confluences with the Upper Fox River. The Wolf River has two drawbridges over the waterway. The Winneconne Highway Bridge at mile 2.4 is a bascule bridge that provides 70 feet horizontal clearance, 7 feet vertical clearance in the closed position, and an unlimited vertical clearance in the open position. The Canadian National Railroad Bridge at Mile 27.8 is a former swing bridge that was converted to a vertical lift bridge in 2012 that provides 56 feet horizontal clearance, 7 feet vertical clearance in the closed position, and a vertical clearance of 16 feet in the raised position. Marine traffic on the waterway consists of small commercial vessels, and both power and sail recreational vessels. The existing drawbridge regulation for Wolf River, 33 CFR 117.1107, includes only the Winneconne Highway Drawbridge and requires the bridge to open on signal; except from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., between May 1 and October 31, the bridge will open if at least two hours advance notice is provided, and from November 1 through April 30, the bridge will open if at least 12-hours advance notice is provided. The Coast Guard has been advised of updated navigation needs on Wolf River, including reports there has been an increase in recreational vessel usage of the waterway due to improvements to the lock system, dredging projects, and restored drawbridges over the Fox River that connect directly with the Wolf River. This rule will establish consistent operating schedules that will meet the needs of current and future navigation on the Wolf River and provide consistency in regulations for the rest of the connecting waterways.

C. Discussion of Comments, Changes and the Final Rule

The existing regulation for Wolf River (33 CFR 117.1107) addresses only one of the two drawbridges over Wolf River, and has not been revised since the overall recodification of federal drawbridge regulations in 1984.

This rule was developed in conjunction with locally applied bridge schedules implemented by WDOT and Fox River Valley Navigation Authority for the past 10 to 15 years. These agencies, along with Canadian National Railroad, have reviewed and approved this rule. The current regulation does not include the Canadian National Railroad Bridge. The Canadian National Railroad Bridge is in a remote location and the only access to the bridge by the drawtender is by boat. Bridge logs were not available for review. The Coast Guard has coordinated with local stakeholders and the Fox River Valley Navigation Authority and determined a 6-hour advance notice for the Canadian National Railroad Bridge from April 20 to October 15 would meet the needs of current navigation. A 12-hour advance notice from October 16 to April 19 would be required for openings.

Currently, the Winneconne Bridge opens on signal between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily, and requires a 2-hour advance notice of arrival for openings from May 1 to October 31.