

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

[Docket No. USCG-2008-0148]

**Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Connecticut River, Old Lyme, CT****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 regulations governing the operation of the Amtrak Railroad Bridge, across the Connecticut River, mile 3.4, at Old Lyme, Connecticut. Under this temporary deviation a two-hour advance notice will be required for bridge openings between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the following time periods: February 29, 2008 to March 5, 2008; March 7, 2008 to March 10, 2008; and March 14, 2008 to March 17, 2008. Notice may be given by calling the bridge on marine radio channel VHF 13, or by telephone at (860) 510-5622. Vessels that can pass under the draw without an opening may do so at all times. This deviation is necessary immediately to facilitate required bridge maintenance in order to prevent further disruption in train service and navigation.

**DATES:** This deviation is effective from February 29, 2008 through March 17, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Materials referred to in this document are available for inspection or copying at the First Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch Office, One South Street, New York, New York 10004, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (212) 668-7165. The First Coast Guard District Bridge Branch Office maintains the public docket for this temporary deviation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Judy Leung-Yee, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, at (212) 668-7165.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Amtrak Railroad Bridge, across the Connecticut River, mile 3.4, at Old Lyme, Connecticut, has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 19 feet at mean high water and 22 feet at mean low water. The existing regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.205.

The owner of the bridge, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), requested a temporary deviation to facilitate scheduled

mechanical maintenance, miter rail replacement, at the bridge.

Under this temporary deviation a two-hour advance notice for bridge openings will be required between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the following time periods: February 29, 2008 to March 5, 2008; March 7, 2008 to March 10, 2008, and March 14, 2008 to March 17, 2008. The advance notice may be given by calling the bridge on marine radio channel VHF 13, or by telephone at (860) 510-5622. Vessels that can pass under the draw without a bridge opening may do so at all times.

Should the bridge maintenance authorized by this temporary deviation be completed before the end of the effective period published in this notice, the Coast Guard will rescind the remainder of this temporary deviation, and the bridge shall be returned to its normal operating schedule. Notice of the above action shall be provided to the public in the Local Notice to Mariners and the **Federal Register**, where practicable.

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 29, 2008.

**Gary Kassof,**

*Bridge Program Manager, First Coast Guard District.*

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[USCG-2008-0115]

RIN 1625-AA09

**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 an additional 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. While construction continues, this added deviation allows the drawbridge

to remain closed-to-navigation each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning March 2, 2008 until and including May 30, 2008.

**DATES:** This deviation is effective from 10 a.m. on March 2, 2008, until 2 p.m. on May 30, 2008.

**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 January 25, 2008, we published a notice of temporary deviation from the regulations entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Potomac River, Between Maryland and Virginia" in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 4472).

The Maryland State Highway Administration and the Virginia Department of Transportation, co-owners of the drawbridge, requested an extension of the aforementioned temporary deviation with new dates in an effort to minimize the potential for major regional traffic impacts and consequences during bridge openings while construction continues.

Bridge owners requested that the new drawbridge not be available for openings for vessels each day between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Sunday, March 2, 2008 through Friday, May 30, 2008. The temporary deviation will only affect vessels with mast heights of 75 feet or greater. 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(a).

The Coast Guard will inform the users of the waterway through our Local and Broadcast Notices to Mariners of the closure period for the bridge so that vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

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.