

under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the bridge may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A. above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

C. Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Government

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the

Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or Tribal Government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023–01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning Policy COMDTINST 5090.1 (series) which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f). The Coast Guard has determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule promulgates the operating regulations or procedures for drawbridges and is categorically excluded from further review, under paragraph L49, of Chapter 3, Table 3–1 of the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Implementation Procedures.

Neither a Record of Environmental Consideration nor a Memorandum for the Record are required for this rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 33 CFR 1.05–1; and DHS Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Revise § 117.209 to read as follows:

§ 117.209 Mianus River.

The draw of the Metro-North (Cos Cob) bridge, mile 1.0 at Greenwich, will operate as follows:

(a) The draw will open on signal between 4:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. after at least a two-hour advance notice is given;

except that, from 5:45 a.m. through 9:45 a.m. and from 4 p.m. through 8 p.m., Monday through Friday excluding holidays, the draw need not open for the passage of vessel traffic unless an emergency exists.

(b) From 9 p.m. through 4:30 a.m. the draw will open on signal after at least a four-hour advance notice is given.

(c) A delay in opening the draw not to exceed 10 minutes may occur when a train scheduled to cross the bridge without stopping has entered the drawbridge lock.

(d) Requests for bridge openings may be made by calling the bridge via marine radio VHF FM Channel 13 or the telephone number posted at the bridge.

Dated: December 13, 2023.

J.W. Mauger,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2024–01360 Filed 1–23–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG–2022–0518]

RIN 1625–AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saugatuck River, Westport, CT

AGENCY: Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is altering the operating schedule that governs the Metro-North (SAGA) Bridge, across the Saugatuck River, mile 1.1, at Westport, CT.

The bridge owner, Metro-North (MNR), submitted a request on May 5, 2022, to modify the regulation to align with the Metro-North “WALK” Bridge train schedule and avoid bridge openings during peak transit hours. It is expected that this change to the regulations will better serve the needs of the community while continuing to meet the reasonable needs of navigation.

DATES: This rule is effective February 23, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Type the docket number (USCG–2022–0518) in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH”. In the Document Type column, select “Supporting & Related Material.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email Ms. Stephanie E. Lopez, First Coast Guard District, Project Officer, telephone 212-514-4335, email Stephanie.E.Lopez@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
 DHS Department of Homeland Security
 FR Federal Register
 OMB Office of Management and Budget
 NPRM Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
 (Advance, Supplemental)
 § Section
 U.S.C. United States Code
 MNR Metro North Railroad

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

On January 27, 2023, the Coast Guard published an NPRM, with a request for comments, entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saugatuck River, Westport, CT” in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 5291). There we stated why we issued the NPRM and invited comments on our proposed regulatory action related to this regulatory change. During the comment period that ended February 27, 2023, we received no comments.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under 33 U.S.C. 499. The Metro-North (SAGA) Bridge at mile 1.1, across the Saugatuck River, Westport, CT, has a vertical clearance of 13 feet at mean high water and a horizontal clearance of 57 feet. Waterway users include recreational and commercial vessels, including fishing vessels.

The existing drawbridge operating regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.221(b). MNR is requesting the modification of the requirements in 33 CFR part 117.221(b) to align with the existing requirements for the Metro-North “WALK” Bridge, across the Norwalk River, at mile 0.1.

The SAGA Bridge is located at one of the busiest rail segments in the United States and the Northeast Corridor. Openings at the SAGA Bridge, between the calendar years of 2019 and 2021, resulted in five (5) delays to MNR train service. A delay due to a bridge opening has cascading affects, resulting in multiple delayed and late trains. Delays due to the openings of SAGA Bridge were notably high among the drawbridges on MNR service territory. Aligning the SAGA Bridge regulation with the WALK Bridge regulation 33 CFR 117.217(b), provides a balance between railroad operations and the interest of waterway users.

IV. Discussion of Comments, Changes, and the Final Rule

The Coast Guard provided a comment period of 30 days and no comments were received.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive Orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive Orders.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, as amended by Executive Order 14094 (Modernizing Regulatory Review). Accordingly, it has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This regulatory action determination is based on the ability of vessels to still transit the bridge given advanced notice.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard received no comments from the Small Business Administration on this rule. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the bridge may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A. above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

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CONTACT section. Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

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We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023–01, Rev.1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning Policy COMDTINST 5090.1 (series) which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f). The Coast Guard has determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule promulgates the operating regulations or procedures for drawbridges and is categorically excluded from further review, under paragraph L49, of Chapter 3, Table3–1 of the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Implementation Procedures. Neither a Record of Environmental Consideration nor a Memorandum for the Record are required for this rule.

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For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 33 CFR 1.05–1; and DHS Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Revise § 117.221 (b) to read as follows:

§ 117.221 Saugatuck River.

* * * * *

(b) The draw of the Metro-North “SAGA” bridge, mile 1.1 at Saugatuck, shall operate as follows:

(1) The draw shall open on signal between 4:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. after at least a two-hour advance notice is given; except that, from 5:45 a.m. through 9:45 a.m. and from 4 p.m. through 8 p.m., Monday through Friday excluding holidays, the draw need not open for the passage of vessel traffic unless an emergency exists.

(2) From 9 p.m. through 4:30 a.m. the draw shall open on signal after at least a four-hour advance notice is given.

(3) A delay in opening the draw not to exceed 10 minutes may occur when a train scheduled to cross the bridge without stopping has entered the drawbridge lock.

(4) Requests for bridge openings may be made by calling the bridge via marine

radio VHF FM Channel 13 or the telephone number posted at the bridge.

* * * * *

Dated: December 13, 2023.

J.W. Mauger,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander,
First Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 2024–01358 Filed 1–23–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Parts 668, 674, 682, and 685

Federal Student Aid Programs (Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and the Federal Direct Loan Program)

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Updated waivers and modifications of statutory and regulatory requirements.

SUMMARY: The Secretary is issuing updates of longstanding waivers and modifications of statutory and regulatory requirements governing the Federal student financial aid programs under the authority of the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 (HEROES Act). The HEROES Act requires the Secretary to publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing notice of the waivers or modifications of statutory or regulatory requirements applicable to the student financial assistance programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to assist individuals who are performing qualifying military service, and individuals who are affected by a disaster, war or other military operation, or national emergency, as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

DATES: Effective January 24, 2024. The waivers and modifications in this document expire on January 24, 2029.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For provisions related to the Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, and Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program: Brian Smith, Telephone: (202) 987–1327. Email: *Brian.Smith@ed.gov*. For other provisions: Aaron Washington, Telephone: (202) 453–7241. Email: *Aaron.Washington@ed.gov*. The mailing address for both individuals is U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary

Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20202.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary is issuing updated waivers and modifications of statutory and regulatory requirements governing the Federal student financial aid programs under the authority of the HEROES Act. As described below, these waivers and modifications primarily focus on servicemembers who are called for active duty. We note below where there is overlap between the waivers and modifications issued in this document and the waivers and modifications related to the Fresh Start Initiative, which is described below.

In a document published in the **Federal Register** on December 12, 2003 (68 FR 69312), the Secretary first exercised the authority under the HEROES Act (Pub. L. 108–76, 20 U.S.C. 1098bb(b)) and announced waivers and modifications of statutory and regulatory provisions designed to assist “affected individuals.” Under 20 U.S.C. 1098ee(2), the term “affected individual” means an individual who—

- Is serving on active duty during a war or other military operation or national emergency;
 - Is performing qualifying National Guard duty during a war or other military operation or national emergency;
 - Resides or is employed in an area that is declared a disaster area by any Federal, State, or local official in connection with a national emergency;
- or
- Suffered direct economic hardship as a direct result of a war or other military operation or national emergency, as determined by the Secretary.

Please note that these waivers and modifications do not apply to an individual who resides or is employed in an area declared a disaster area by any Federal, State, or local official unless that declaration has been made in connection with a national emergency.

In a document published in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 2017 (82 FR 45465), the Secretary updated the waivers and modifications to reflect statutory and regulatory changes that had occurred since the most recent prior waiver and modification document was published. The 2017 waivers and modifications expired on September 30, 2022.

The Secretary is updating the waivers and modifications to reflect statutory