

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: In June 2006, the southernmost portion of the bascule spans for the new Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, at mile 103.8, across Potomac River between Alexandria, Virginia and Oxon Hill, Maryland was publicly placed into service, switching I–95 Northbound traffic onto the new Outer Loop portion of the bridge. The newly-constructed portion of bridge will be required to open for vessels in accordance with the current drawbridge operating regulations set out in 33 CFR 117.255(c).

While the drawbridge is operational, coordinators for the construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project indicated that the bascule span is not yet fully commissioned and the work continues through the rigorous testing phase. Opening the new bascule span for a vessel at this time would take approximately 45 minutes in a best case scenario. This has the potential to have a significant impact upon I–95 traffic, especially during the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. bridge-opening time frame currently available for commercial vessels, in accordance with 33 CFR 117.255(c).

Coordinators requested a temporary deviation from the current operating regulation for the new Woodrow Wilson Memorial (I–95) Bridge set out in 33 CFR 117.255(c).

Though good progress has been made regarding commissioning of the north and south drawbridges (both now carrying I–95 vehicle traffic), the coordinators are requesting an additional two months of the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. restriction of bridge operation to proceed with commissioning activities through February 22, 2007. From a river-user standpoint, the coordinators have received no requests from boaters or mariners to open during the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. timeframe since the restriction was issued in late June 2006. In fact, the coordinators have received no complaints on the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. restriction.

The coordinators requested that the new Outer Loop portion of the new drawbridge not be available for openings for vessels each day between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Monday, December 25, 2006 through

February 22, 2007 or until the bridge is properly commissioned, whichever comes first. The temporary deviation will only affect vessels with mast heights of 75 feet or greater since demolition of the existing drawbridge continues in addition to the lift spans removed. Management of the Federal and auxiliary channels will continue to be closely coordinated between the coordinators for the construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, the Coast Guard and vessels requesting transit through the construction zone. 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(c). Maintaining the new drawbridge in the closed-to-navigation position each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 25, 2006 through February 22, 2007 will help reduce the impact to vehicular traffic during this phase of new bridge construction.

The Coast Guard has informed the known users of the waterway of the closure period for the bridge so that these vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(c), this work will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: December 11, 2006.

Waverly W. Gregory, Jr.,
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch, Fifth Coast Guard District.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD05–06–118]

RIN 1625–AA–09

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW), Scotts Hill, NC

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 Figure Eight Swing Bridge across the AICW mile 278.1, at Scotts Hill, North Carolina to perform needed mechanical and structural repairs.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 7 a.m. on January 3, 2007, to 7 a.m. on January 5, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary S. Heyer, Bridge Management Specialist, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398–6629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The contractor, on behalf of the bridge owner, the Figure Eight Beach Homeowners Association, Inc., has requested a temporary deviation from the current operating regulation set out in 33 CFR 117.821(a)(4) which requires the drawbridge to open on signal for commercial vessels at all times and on signal for pleasure vessels on the hour and half hour. The contractor has requested the temporary deviation to close the Figure Eight Swing Bridge to navigation to perform needed repairs to the center-bearing mechanism of the swing span.

The concrete beneath 50% of the balance wheel track at the Figure Eight Swing Bridge has deteriorated and is in need of replacement. In order to replace the concrete, the balance wheels and track will be removed and the bad concrete hand-chipped out. Once the hand-chipping is complete, the rail will be reset and grouted. To facilitate this work, the Figure Eight Swing Bridge will be locked in the closed-to-navigation position from 7 a.m. on January 3, 2007 until and including 7 a.m. on January 5, 2007.

The Coast Guard has informed the known users of the waterway of the closure periods for the bridge so that these vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(c), this work will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: December 11, 2006.

Waverly W. Gregory, Jr.,
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch, Fifth Coast Guard District.

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