

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Coast Guard**

**33 CFR Part 117**

[CGD07-02-160]

RIN 1625-AA09

**Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Canaveral Barge Canal, Cape Canaveral, Brevard County, FL**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard proposes to change the operating regulations of the Christa McAuliffe bridge, SR 3, across the Canaveral Barge Canal at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Under the proposed rule, the bridge need open only twice an hour from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for vessel traffic, except during the morning and evening rush hours when the bridge may remain closed to facilitate vehicular traffic. The proposed rule would also require the bridge to open with 3 hours notice from 10:01 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. This change would improve the flow of vehicular traffic without significantly impacting the needs of navigation.

**DATES:** Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before July 21, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail comments and related material to Commander (obr), Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 S.E. 1st Ave., Room 432, Miami, FL 33131. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in the preamble as being available in the docket, are part of [CGD07-02-160] and are available for inspection or copying at Commander (obr), Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 S.E. 1st Avenue, Room 432, Miami, FL 33131 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Barry Dragon, Seventh Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch, 909 S.E. 1st Ave Miami, FL 33131, telephone number 305-415-6743.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Request for Comments**

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking [CGD07-02-160], indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment

applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and related material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying. If you would like to know they reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

**Public Meeting**

A public meeting has not been scheduled for this proposed rule. However, you may submit a request for a meeting in writing to Bridge Branch, Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 SE 1st Ave, Room 432, Miami, FL 33131, explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Background and Purpose**

The Christa McAuliffe bridge, SR 3, across the Canaveral Barge Canal is a twin, double bascule leaf bridge with a vertical clearance of 21.6 feet at mean high water and a horizontal clearance of 90.3 feet. The current operating regulations published in 33 CFR 117.273(a), provide for the bridge to open on signal from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. except that, from 6:15 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the bridge need not open for the passage of vessels. From 10:01 p.m. to 5:59 a.m., everyday, the bridge shall open on signal if at least three hours notice is given to the bridge tender. The bridge shall open as soon as possible for the passage of public vessels of the United States, tugs with tows and vessels in distress. The local residents requested a change to the current operating schedule to ease the flow of vehicular traffic on and off of Cape Canaveral through their neighborhood. On May 22, 2002, a temporary final rule was published in the **Federal Register** (Volume 67, Number 99, pages 35903-35904) to facilitate repairs to the bridge. In pertinent part, for four months, from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays, the draw opened on the hour and half hour for the passage of vessels. This temporary change to bridge openings for limited times during the day met the reasonable needs of navigation and the needs of vehicular traffic in the neighborhood while facilitating repair to the bridge. Additionally, the difference between the number of bridge openings under this proposed rule and the historical number of bridge openings

under the existing, permanent rule is minimal. Accordingly, based on the results of the temporary rule and the minimal difference in bridge openings, the proposed rule will meet the reasonable needs of navigation on this waterway.

**Discussion of Proposed Rule**

Under the proposed rule, the bridge need only open on the hour and half-hour from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., except from 6:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and from 3:10 p.m. to 5:59 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the bridge need not open. From 10:01 p.m. to 5:59 a.m., everyday, the bridge shall open on signal if at least 3 hours advance notice is given to the bridge tender. The bridge shall open as soon as possible for the passage of tugs with tows, public vessels of the United States and vessels in distress.

**Regulatory Evaluation**

This proposed rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not "significant" under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this proposed rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation is unnecessary, because the proposed rule only slightly modifies the current closure periods and still provides for regular openings.

**Small Entities**

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612), we have considered whether this proposed rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. 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 certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The proposed rule only slightly modifies the current closure periods, because it still provides for two openings per hour during the daytime and allows for passage of tugs with tows on signal between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment to the address under **ADDRESSES**. In your comment, explain why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this proposed rule would economically affect it.

#### Assistance for Small Entities

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 proposed rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking. If this proposed rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. 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).

#### Collection of Information

This proposed rule would call for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

#### Federalism

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on State or local governments and would either preempt State law or impose a substantial direct cost of compliance on them. We have analyzed this proposed rule under that Order and determined that it does not have implications for federalism.

#### 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 regulatory actions not specifically required by law. 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 or more

in any one year. Although this proposed rule would not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

#### Taking of Private Property

This proposed rule would not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

#### Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

#### Protection of Children

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and would not create an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that might disproportionately affect children.

#### Environment

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Commandant Instruction M16475.ID, which guides the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f), and have concluded that there are no factors in this case that would limit the use of a categorical exclusion under section 2.B.2 of the Instruction. Therefore, this rule is categorically excluded, under figure 2-1, paragraph (32)(e), of the Instruction from further environmental documentation. Under figure 2-1, paragraph (32)(e), of the Instruction, an "Environmental Analysis Check List" and a "Categorical Exclusion Determination" are not required for this rule. Comments on this section will be considered before we make the final decision on whether to categorically exclude this rule from further environmental review.

#### Indian Tribal Governments

This proposed rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it would 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.

#### Energy Effects

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations that Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use. We have determined that it is not a "significant energy action" under that order because it is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866 and is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. It has not been designated by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

#### List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 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; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g); Section 117.255 also issued under authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.273(a) is revised to read as follows:

#### § 117.273 Canaveral Barge Canal.

(a) The draws of the Christa McAuliffe bridge, SR 3, mile 1.0, across the Canaveral Barge Canal need only open daily for vessel traffic on the hour and half-hour from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; except that from 6:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and from 3:10 p.m. to 5:59 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the bridge need not open. From 10:01 p.m. to 5:59 a.m., everyday, the bridge shall open on signal if at least 3 hours notice is given to the bridge tender. The bridge shall open as soon as possible for the passage of tugs with tows, public vessels of the United States and vessels in distress.

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Dated: May 5, 2003.

**James S. Carmichael,**

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

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