

inspection or copying at the First Coast Guard District Office, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (617) 223-8364.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John W. McDonald, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, (617) 223-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory History

On August 13, 1999, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking entitled Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Housatonic River, Connecticut, in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 44147). The Coast Guard received no comments in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking. No public hearing was requested and none was held.

Background

The US 1 Bridge, mile 3.5, across the Housatonic River, in Stratford, Connecticut, has a vertical clearance of 32 feet at mean high water and 37 feet at mean low water.

The existing operating regulations listed at 33 CFR 117.207(a) for the bridge require it to open on signal; except that, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday and 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily, the draw need not be opened for the passage of vessels.

The owner of the bridge, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CONNDOT) has asked the Coast Guard to change the regulations to require a six-hour advance notice for openings from, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., December 1 through March 31. The bridge opening log data for 1998, and 1999, December 1 through March 31, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., indicate the following number of openings: December 1, N/A, January 5, 6, February 4, 3, March 0, 3, respectively.

Discussion of Comments and Changes

The Coast Guard received no comments in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking and no changes have been made to this final rule.

Regulatory Evaluation

This final rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. It has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under that Order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The

Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this final rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary. This conclusion is based on the fact that the bridge has not had many requests to open at night during the winter months. Mariners will still be able to obtain bridge openings at night during the winter months provided they give a six-hour notice.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard considered whether this final rule will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. "Small entities" include small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000. Therefore, for reasons discussed in the Regulatory Evaluation section above, the Coast Guard certifies under section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Collection of Information

This final rule does not provide for a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132 and has determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under that order.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this final rule and concluded that, under Section 2.B.2., Figure 2-1, paragraph (32)(e), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this final rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation because promulgation of changes to drawbridge regulations have been found to not have a significant effect on the environment. A written "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is not required for this final rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons set out 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; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.207(a) is revised to read as follows:

§ 117.207 Housatonic River

(a) The draw of the US 1 Bridge, mile 3.5, at Stratford, shall open on signal; except that, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday, and 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily, the draw need not open for the passage of vessels. From December 1 through March 31, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., the draw shall open on signal if at least six-hours notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

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Dated: October 28, 1999.

Robert F. Duncan,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Commander, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 99-29148 Filed 11-5-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD01-99-079]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Mystic River, CT

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is changing the drawbridge operation regulations governing the US 1 Bridge, mile 2.8, across the Mystic River in Mystic, Connecticut. The bridge owner asked the Coast Guard to change the regulations to require a six-hour advance notice for openings in the evening during the winter months because there have been no requests to open the bridge during that time period. This final rule is expected to relieve the bridge owner of the burden of crewing the bridge at all times and still meet the needs of navigation.

DATES: This final rule is effective December 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Documents as indicated in this preamble are available for inspection or copying at the First Coast Guard District Office, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (617) 223-8364.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John W. McDonald, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, (617) 223-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory History

On August 13, 1999, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking entitled Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Mystic River, Connecticut, in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 44145). The Coast Guard received no comments on the notice of proposed rulemaking. No public hearing was requested and none was held.

Background

The US 1 Bridge, mile 2.8, across the Mystic River, has a vertical clearance of 4 feet at mean high water and 7 feet at mean low water.

The existing operating regulations for the bridge listed at 33 CFR 117.211(b) require it to open on signal with a maximum delay of 20 minutes; except, from May 1 through October 31 from 7:15 a.m. to 7:15 p.m., the draw need only open hourly at quarter past the hour, and from November 1 through April 30 from 7:15 p.m. to 5:15 a.m., the draw shall open on signal upon eight-hours advance notice.

The owner of the bridge, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CONNDOT), asked the Coast Guard to change the regulations to require a six-hour advance notice for openings from November 1 through April 30, 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. This change is less restrictive than the existing regulations which require eight-hours advance notice. The bridge opening log data for 1998, and 1999, November through April, indicate no requests to open the bridge during the time period 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Discussion of Comments and Changes

The Coast Guard received no comments in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking and no changes have been made to this final rule.

Regulatory Evaluation

This final rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. It has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under

that Order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this final rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary. This conclusion is based on the fact that the bridge has not had any requests to open in the evening during the winter months. Mariners will still be able to obtain bridge openings during the regulated time period provided they give six-hour notice.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard considered whether this final rule will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. "Small entities" include small businesses, not-for profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000. Therefore, for reasons discussed in the Regulatory Evaluation section above, the Coast Guard certifies under section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Collection of Information

This final rule does not provide for a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132 and has determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under that order.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this final rule and concluded that, under Section 2.B.2., Figure 2-1, paragraph (32)(e), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this final rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation because promulgation of changes to drawbridge regulations have been found to not have a significant effect on the environment. A written "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is not required for this final rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons set out 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; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.211(b)(2) is revised to read as follows:

§ 117.211 Mystic River

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) From November 1 through April 30, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., the draw shall open on signal if at least six-hours notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

Dated: October 28, 1999.

Robert F. Duncan,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Commander, First Coast Guard District.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

36 CFR Part 211

RIN 0596-AB63

Administration; Cooperative Funding

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department is amending current regulations to establish minimum requirements applicable to written agreements between the Forest Service and cooperators, such as individuals, States and local governments, and other non-Federal entities. This rulemaking implements amendments to the Act of June 30, 1914, which expand the basis for accepting contributions for cooperative work, allow reimbursable payments by cooperators, and adequately protect the Government's interest. The intended effect is to fully implement the new statutory provisions to facilitate cooperative ventures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule is effective December 8, 1999.