

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117****[CGD08-00-005]****Drawbridge Operating Regulation;
Chef Menteur Pass, LA****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of temporary deviation from regulations; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the U.S. Highway 90 bridge across Chef Menteur Pass, mile 2.8, at Lake Catherine, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. This deviation will test a proposed change to the drawbridge operation schedule. This deviation will change the current morning bridge closure period from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, so that the draw will open on the hour and half-hour during this period. The test deviation will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of a proposed change to the draw operation schedule.

DATES: This deviation is effective from Thursday, June 1, 2000 through Friday, June 30, 2000. Comments must be submitted by July 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to Commander (ob), Eighth Coast Guard District, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-3396, or deliver them to room 1313 at the same address between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the Bridge Administration Branch, Eighth Coast Guard District between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Johnson, Bridge Administration Branch, telephone (504) 589-2965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 23, 1999 the operating regulation for the Chef Menteur Pass Bridge was changed to allow the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. (CGD8-96-053, 64 FR 8720 dated February 23, 1999). The Coast Guard received

numerous complaints from operators of commercial fishing vessels, stating that the special operating regulation does not meet the needs of navigation for local commercial fishermen because they are required to haul in their shrimp nets two hours earlier than necessary to be able pass through the bridge before the closure time. This cuts down trawling time resulting in loss of revenue. Based on complaints from local commercial fishermen, the Coast Guard has determined that the special drawbridge operating regulation may not meet the reasonable needs of navigation.

The Coast Guard is proposing a change to the regulation governing the operation of the bridge and has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. The NPRM requests comments on the Coast Guard's proposal to modify the 33 CFR 117.436 to require the bridge to open only on the hour and on the half-hour from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The draw shall open on signal at all other times or at any time for a vessel in distress. The deviation to the current regulations allows the Coast Guard to test the proposed schedule and evaluate its effectiveness before making a permanent change to the drawbridge opening regulation. Comments will be accepted through July 31, 2000.

Under the temporary deviation, the draw of the U. S. Highway 90 bridge across Chef Menteur Pass, mile 2.8 at Lake Catherine, Orleans Parish, Louisiana will open to navigation only on the hour and on the half-hour between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. from June 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000. The draw shall open on signal at all other times or at any time for a vessel in distress.

Dated: May 1, 2000.

K.J. Eldridge,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, 8th Coast Guard Dist., Acting.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 165****[COTP Western Alaska 00-004]****RIN 2115-AA97****Safety Zone; Redoubt Shoal, Cook Inlet, Alaska****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary 500-yard radius moving safety zone around the Exploratory Drilling Structure OSPREY as it is towed by Crowley Marine Service Tugs from Port Graham, Alaska to its set down site located in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska. This safety zone is implemented to ensure the safe and timely movement and set down of the Drilling Structure OSPREY in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska.

DATES: This temporary final rule is effective from 12:01 a.m. on July 7, 2000, until 11:59 p.m. on July 9, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public docket for this rulemaking is maintained by Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Anchorage, 510 "L" Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99501. Materials in the public docket are available for inspection and copying at Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Anchorage. Normal Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Commander Rick Rodriguez, Chief of Port Operations, USCG Marine Safety Office, Anchorage, at (907) 271-6724.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Regulatory History**

A notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) was not published for this regulation. In keeping with requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a NPRM. Publishing an NPRM and delaying the effective date would be contrary to national safety interests since immediate action is needed to minimize potential danger to the public. The OSPREY is a large structure that is difficult to maneuver and presents a potential hazard. Publishing an NPRM and delaying the effective date of the regulation is warranted because immediate action is necessary to protect participants and other vessel traffic from the potential hazards associated with this operation.

Background and Purpose

The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary 500-yard radius moving safety zone on the navigable waters of the United States around the Exploratory Drilling Structure OSPREY as it is towed by Crowley Marine Service Tugs from Port Graham, Alaska to its set down site located in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska, latitude 60°41'74" W, longitude 151°40'33" N. This safety zone is implemented to ensure the safe and timely movement

and set down of the Drilling Structure OSPREY in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska. The 500-yard standoff of the safety zone also aids the safety of these evolutions by minimizing conflicts and hazards that might otherwise occur with other transiting vessels. The limited size of the zone is designed to minimize impact on other mariners transiting through the area.

Regulatory Evaluation

This rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential cost 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 proposal to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10(e) of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard considers whether this rule will have significant economic impacts 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. Because this safety zone is very small, will only be in effect for three days, and does not impede access to other maritime facilities in the area, the Coast Guard believes there will be no impact to small entities. Therefore, 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.

Collection of Information

This 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 rule under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this rule and concluded that, under Figure 2-1, paragraph 34(g) of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation because it establishes a safety zone. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket for inspection or copying where indicated under ADDRESSES.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) and Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership, (58 FR 58093; October 28, 1993) govern the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An unfunded mandate is a regulation that requires a State, local, or tribal government or the private sector to incur direct costs without the Federal Government's having first provided the funds to pay those costs. This rule will not impose an unfunded mandate.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

Temporary Final Regulation

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g), 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

2. From 12:01 a.m. on July 7, 2000, until 11:59 p.m. on July 9, 2000, § 165.T17-004 is temporarily added to read as follows:

§ 165.T17-004 Safety Zone; Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska.

(a) *Description.* The following area is a Safety Zone: All navigable waters within a 500-yard radius of the Exploratory Drilling Structure OSPREY as it transits between Port Graham and Redoubt Bay in Cook Inlet, Alaska.

(b) *Effective Dates.* This section is effective from 12:01 a.m. on July 7, 2000, until 11:59 p.m. on July 9, 2000.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) The Captain of the Port means the Captain of the Port, Western Alaska. The Captain of the Port may authorize or designate any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant, or petty

officer to act on his behalf as his representative.

(2) The general regulations governing safety zones contained in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, part 165.23 apply. No person or vessel may enter, transit through, anchor or remain in this safety zone, with the exception of attending vessels, without first obtaining permission from the Captain of the Port, Western Alaska, or his representative. The Captain of the Port or his representative may be contacted in the vicinity of the OSPREY Platform via marine VHF channel 16. The Captain of the Port's representative can also be contacted by telephone at (907) 271-6700.

Dated: April 18, 2000.

W. J. Hutmacher,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Western Alaska.

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POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 20

Changes in International Postal Rates

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service, after considering the comments submitted in response to its request for comments on proposed changes in international postage rates published in the **Federal Register** on March 1, 2000 (65 FR 11023-11024), hereby gives notice that it is implementing the proposed rates for regular printed matter, small packets, and books and sheet music and delaying the implementation for the proposed publishers' periodical rates.

EFFECTIVE DATES: 12:01 a.m., May 28, 2000; 12:01 a.m., January 13, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Alepa, (202) 268-4071; or John Reynolds, (202) 314-7334.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 1, 2000, the Postal Service published in the **Federal Register** a notice of proposed changes in international postage rates (65 FR 11023-11024). The Postal Service requested comments by March 31, 2000. No comments were received on the proposed rates for regular printed matter, small packets, and books and sheet music. Comments on the proposed rates for publishers' periodicals were received from seven mailers who use the publishers' periodical rates and an organization representing publishers. The comments centered on three areas of concern.