

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 (34)(h), of the Instruction, from further environmental documentation. Special local regulations issued in conjunction with a regatta or marine parade permit are specifically excluded from further analysis and documentation under that section.

Under figure 2–1, paragraph (34)(h), 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.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

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

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 100 as follows:

PART 100—SAFETY OF LIFE ON NAVIGABLE WATERS

1. The authority citation for part 100 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1233; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

2. Add a temporary § 100.35–T05–098 to read as follows:

§ 100.35–T05–098 Willoughby Bay, Norfolk, Virginia.

(a) *Regulated area.* The regulated area is established for the waters of Willoughby Bay contained within the following coordinates:

Latitude	Longitude
36°58'36.0" North	076°18'42.0" West
36°58'00.0" North	076°18'00.0" West
36°57'49.0" North	076°18'14.0" West
36°57'36.0" North	076°17'55.0" West
36°57'26.0" North	076°18'06.0" West
36°58'15.0" North	076°19'08.0" West
36°58'36.0" North	076°18'42.0" West

All coordinates reference Datum NAD 1983.

(b) *Definitions.* (1) *Coast Guard Patrol Commander* means a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the Coast Guard who has been designated by the

Commander, Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads.

(2) *Official Patrol* means any vessel assigned or approved by Commander, Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads with a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer on board and displaying a Coast Guard ensign.

(3) *Participant* includes all vessels participating in the Hampton Roads Sailboard Classic under the auspices of the Marine Event Permit issued to the event sponsor and approved by Commander, Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads.

(c) *Special local regulations.* (1) Except for event participants and persons or vessels authorized by the Coast Guard Patrol Commander, no person or vessel may enter or remain in the regulated area.

(2) The operator of any vessel in the regulated area must:

(i) Stop the vessel immediately when directed to do so by any Official Patrol and then proceed only as directed.

(ii) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the Official Patrol.

(d) *Enforcement period.* This section will be enforced from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 29 and 30, 2005.

Dated: August 18, 2005.

L.L. Hereth,

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

[FR Doc. 05–17513 Filed 9–1–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD08–05–049]

RIN 1625–AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lafourche Bayou, Lafourche Parish, LA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to change the regulations governing six bridges across Bayou Lafourche, south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The Lafourche Parish Council has requested that the bridges remain closed to navigation at various times on weekdays during the school year. These closures will facilitate the safe, efficient movement of staff, students and other residents within the parish.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before November 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander (obc), Eighth Coast Guard District, 500 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130–3310. 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 office between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Frank, Bridge Administration Branch, telephone 504–589–2965.

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 (CGD08–05–049), 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

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. You may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch at the address under **ADDRESSES** 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 U. S. Coast Guard, at the request of the Lafourche Parish Council, proposes to modify the existing operating schedules of six bridges across Bayou Lafourche south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The six bridges include: Golden Meadow Vertical Lift

Bridge, mile 23.9; the Galliano Pontoon Bridge, mile 27.8; the Galliano/South Lafourche (Tarpon) Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 30.6; the Cote Blanche Pontoon Bridge, mile 33.9; the Cutoff Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 36.3; and the Larose Pontoon Bridge, mile 39.1. The modification of the existing regulations will allow these bridges to remain closed to navigation from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday from August 15 through May 31. At all other times, the bridges would open on signal for the passage of vessels.

Presently, only two of these bridges have special operation regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations. The Galliano/South Lafourche (Tarpon) Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 30.6, and the Cote Blanche Pontoon Bridge, mile 33.9, open on signal; except that, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday except Federal holidays, the draws need not open for the passage of vessels. The other four bridges open on signal for the passage of vessels pursuant to 33 CFR 117.5.

Traffic counts and vessel openings vary among the six bridges. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development provided information on vessel openings and traffic counts for the Larose Pontoon Bridge, mile 39.1; the Galliano/South Lafourche (Tarpon) Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 30.6; and the Golden Meadow Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 23.9. The Lafourche Parish Council provided information on vessel openings and traffic counts for the Cutoff Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 36.3; the Cote Blanche Pontoon Bridge, mile 33.9; and the Galliano Pontoon Bridge, mile 27.8.

The Larose Pontoon Bridge, mile 39.1, is the first bridge south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway intersection. This bridge is located just south of a flood control structure that has a horizontal clearance of 56 feet and a depth over the sill of 10 feet. The bridge opens an average of 410 times a month for vessels. Based upon the request, approximately 18% of the vessels would be affected by the proposed closures. Traffic counts indicate that 9,000 vehicles cross the bridge daily and approximately 23% of those vehicles cross during the requested closure times. Vessel openings of the bridge delay vehicular traffic nine minutes per opening, delaying 20 vehicles per opening.

The Larose Pontoon Bridge is presently scheduled for replacement. The new bridge will be a vertical lift

bridge and it will be located 0.4 miles downstream from its present location. Once the new bridge is constructed, the old bridge will be removed. The special operating regulation for the old bridge, if approved, may not be transferred to the new bridge and a new request for a special operation regulation must be made for the new bridge.

The Cutoff Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 36.3 is the next bridge downstream from the Larose Pontoon Bridge. The bridge opens an average of 419 times a month for vessels. Based upon the request, approximately 23% of the vessels would be affected by the proposed closures. Traffic counts indicate that 7180 vehicles cross the bridge daily and approximately 33% of those vehicles cross during the requested closure times. Vessel openings of the bridge delay vehicular traffic five minutes per opening, delaying 80 vehicles per opening.

The Cote Blanche Pontoon Bridge, mile 33.9 is the next bridge downstream from the Cutoff Vertical Lift Bridge. The bridge opens an average of 441 times a month for vessels. Based upon the request, approximately 23% of the vessels would be affected by the proposed closures. Traffic counts indicate that 7180 vehicles cross the bridge daily and approximately 33% of those vehicles cross during the requested closure times. Vessel openings of the bridge delay vehicular traffic five minutes per opening, delaying 54 vehicles per opening.

The Galliano/South Lafourche (Tarpon) Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 30.6 is the next bridge downstream from the Cote Blanche Pontoon Bridge. The bridge opens an average of 430 times a month for vessels. Based upon the request, approximately 20% of the vessels would be affected by the proposed closures. Traffic counts indicate that 8000 vehicles cross the bridge daily and approximately 28% of those vehicles cross during the requested closure times. Vessel openings of the bridge delay vehicular traffic six minutes per opening, delaying 43 vehicles per opening.

The Galliano Pontoon Bridge, mile 27.8 is the next bridge downstream from the Galliano/South Lafourche (Tarpon) Vertical Lift Bridge. The bridge opens an average of 580 times a month for vessels. Based upon the request, approximately 23% of the vessels would be affected by the proposed closures. Traffic counts indicate that 5040 vehicles cross the bridge daily and approximately 34% of those vehicles cross during the requested closure times. Vessel openings of the bridge delay vehicular traffic five minutes per

opening, delaying 60 vehicles per opening.

The Golden Meadow Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 23.9 is the next bridge downstream from the Galliano Pontoon Bridge. The bridge opens an average of 610 times a month for vessels. Based upon the request, approximately 30% of the vessels would be affected by the proposed closures. Traffic counts indicate that 2400 vehicles cross the bridge daily and approximately 30% of those vehicles cross during the requested closure times. Vessel openings of the bridge delay vehicular traffic six minutes per opening, delaying 16 vehicles per opening.

Navigation at the sites of the bridges consists primarily of commercial and recreational fishing vessels, crew boats, and some tugboats with barges. Alternate routes are not readily accessible.

The existing regulations on the Galliano/South Lafourche (Tarpon) Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 30.6 and the Cote Blanche Pontoon Bridge, mile 33.9, were established on September 20, 1995. Since the establishment of these special operation regulations, the Coast Guard has not received any formal complaints regarding the operation of the bridges. It has been approximately ten years since the last formal request to change the operating regulations of the Cote Blanche Bridge and the Galliano/South Lafourche Bridge. The Coast Guard is interested in obtaining comments in response to this current request from all interested parties with regard to how the proposed changes to the regulations will affect them.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

The proposed rule would modify the existing regulations in 33 CFR 117.465 to facilitate the movement of high volumes of vehicular traffic across the bridges during periods of increased transits during the school year. These closures would allow for vehicles and school busses to transit across the bridges unimpeded both before and after school hours. The change would allow these six bridges on Bayou Lafourche south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, mile 35.6 west of Harvey Lock, in Larose, to remain closed to navigation from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday from August 15 to May 31. At all other times, the bridges will open on signal for the passage of vessels. The proposed regulation does not affect the SR 1 (Leeville) Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 13.3. This bridge is a mid-level vertical lift bridge and is scheduled to be replaced

by a high-level fixed bridge in the near future.

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. We expect the economic impact of this proposed rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under the regulatory policies and procedures of DHS is unnecessary.

This proposed rule would allow vessels to transit this waterway with proper notification before and after the peak vehicular traffic periods. According to the information provided by the applicant, the public at large is better served by the closure times.

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. This proposed rule would affect the following entities: the owners and operators of vessels needing to transit the bridges during the requested closure periods.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this proposed rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining 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 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 Eighth Coast Guard District Bridge Administration Branch at the address above. 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.

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 have 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 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 or more in any one year. Though this proposed rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this proposed rule elsewhere in this preamble.

Taking of Private Property

This proposed rule would not affect 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 proposed 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.

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. The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has not designated it as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

Technical Standards

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) (15 U.S.C. 272 note) directs agencies to use voluntary consensus standards in their regulatory activities unless the agency provides Congress, through the Office of Management and Budget, with an explanation of why using these standards would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (e.g., specifications of materials, performance, design, or operation; test methods; sampling procedures; and related management systems practices) that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies.

This proposed rule does not use technical standards. Therefore, we did not consider the use of voluntary consensus standards.

Environment

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, 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 proposed rule is categorically excluded, under figure 2-1, paragraph (32)(e), of the Instruction, from further environmental documentation.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

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. 0170.1; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. § 117.465(a) is revised to read as follows:

§ 117.465 Lafourche Bayou.

(a) The draws of the following bridges shall open on signal; except that, from August 15 through May 31, the draw need not open for the passage of vessels Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.:

(1) SR 308 (Golden Meadow) Bridge, mile 23.9, at Golden Meadow.

(2) Galliano Pontoon Bridge, mile 27.8, at Galliano.

(3) SR 308 (South Lafourche (Tarpon)) Bridge, mile 30.6, at Galliano.

(4) Cote Blanche Pontoon Bridge, mile 33.9, at Cutoff.

(5) Cutoff Vertical Lift Bridge, mile 36.3, at Cutoff.

(6) SR 310 (Larose Pontoon) Bridge, mile 39.1, at Larose.

* * * * *

Dated: August 26, 2005.

Kevin L. Marshall,

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

[FR Doc. 05-17509 Filed 9-1-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD08-05-046]

RIN 1625-AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, West Larose, LA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to change the regulation governing the operation of the SR 1 (West Larose) vertical lift bridge across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, mile 35.6 west of Harvey Lock, at Larose, Louisiana. The Lafourche Parish Council has requested that the bridge remain closed to navigation at various times on weekdays during the school year. These closures will facilitate the safe, efficient movement of staff, students and other residents within the parish.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before November 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander (obc), Eighth Coast Guard District, 500 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-3310. 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 office between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Frank, Bridge Administration Branch, telephone 504-589-2965.

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 (CGD08-05-046), 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

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. You may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch at the address under **ADDRESSES** 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 U. S. Coast Guard, at the request of the Lafourche Parish Council, proposes to modify the existing operating schedule of the SR 1 (West Larose) vertical lift bridge across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, mile 35.6 west of Harvey Lock, at Larose, Louisiana. The modification of the existing regulations will allow the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday during the school year. Currently, the bridge opens on signal pursuant to 33 CFR 117.5.

Approximately 11,600 vehicles cross the bridge daily, 25% of which cross the bridge during the requested closure times. The bridge averages 976 openings a month. Approximately 25% of the bridge openings occur during the requested closure times. The average length of a bridge opening is approximately 10 to 12 minutes.

Navigation at the site of the bridge consists primarily of tugboats with barges. Alternate routes east and west through the bridge are not readily accessible; however, the bridge, in the closed-to-navigation position provides a vertical clearance of 35 feet above high water.

It should be noted that there have been two previous requests by the Lafourche Parish to establish special operating regulations for this bridge. On December 7, 1994, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** (59 FR 63068). The proposed change to the regulation would have required that from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the draw of the bridge would remain closed to navigation for passage of vehicular traffic during peak traffic periods. At all other times the draw