9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2014-0829]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Willamette River,
Portland, OR

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

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SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation

from the operating schedule that governs the Burlington

Northern Santa Fe Railway Bridge, also known as the St.

Johns RR Bridge, across the Willamette River, mile 6.9, at

Portland, OR. The deviation is necessary to facilitate

installation of new rail joints. This deviation allows the

bridge to remain in the closed position during maintenance

activities.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 7 a.m. on September

23, 2014 to 5 p.m. on October 2, 2014, and will be enforced

from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 23, 2014; from 7 a.m. to

5 p.m. on September 25, 2014; from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on

September 30, 2014; and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 2,

2014.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, [USCG-2014-0829] is available at http://www.regulations.gov. Type the docket number in the "SEARCH" box and click "SEARCH." Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in Room W12-140 on the ground floor of the Department of Transportation West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary deviation, call or e-mail Mr. Steven Fischer, Bridge Administrator, Coast Guard Thirteenth District; telephone 206-220-7282, e-mail steven.m.fischer3@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Cheryl Collins, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway requested this deviation to facilitate the installation of new rail joints on the bridge. The bridge, also known as the St. Johns RR Bridge, crosses the Willamette River at mile 6.9 and provides 54 feet of vertical clearance above Columbia River Datum 0.0 while in the closed position. Under normal operations, this bridge opens on signal as required by 33 CFR 117.5. The deviation

period is from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 23, 2014; from

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 25, 2014; from 7 a.m. to 5

p.m. on September 30, 2014; and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on

October 2, 2014. This deviation allows the lift span of

the BNSF Railway Bridge across the Willamette River, mile

6.9, to remain in the closed position and need not open for

maritime traffic during the periods listed above The

bridge shall operate in accordance to 33 CFR § 117.5 at all

other times. BNSF will entertain requests from mariners to

change the above listed schedule for emergent vessel

arrivals or departures that are dependent on water level,

given 72 hours advanced notice. The BNSF contact is Ron

Berry, who can be reached at (913)551-4164. Waterway usage

on this stretch of the Willamette River includes vessels

ranging from commercial tug and barge to small pleasure

craft.

Vessels able to pass through the bridge in the closed

positions may do so at any time. Barring coordination with

BNSF, the bridge will not be able to open for emergencies,

and there is no immediate alternate route for vessels to

pass. The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the

waterways through our Local and Broadcast Notices to

Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge

so that vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any

impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must

return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the

end of the effective period of this temporary deviation.

This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized

under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: September 9, 2014   STEVEN M. FISCHER
                          Bridge Administrator
                          Thirteenth Coast Guard District

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