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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2015-0807]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Newark Bay, Newark, NJ

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the Lehigh Valley Drawbridge, across Newark Bay, mile 4.3, at Newark, New Jersey. This deviation is necessary to replace bridge timbers and miter rails. This deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed position for 10 hours for two days.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 13, 2015 and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 14, 2015, with a rain date on September 20, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, [USCG-2015-0807] 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, contact Mr. Joe M. Arca, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, telephone (212) 514-4336, e-mail joe.m.arca@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Ms. Cheryl Collins, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Lehigh Valley Drawbridge, mile 4.3, across Newark Bay has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 35 feet at mean high water and 39 feet at mean low water. The existing bridge operating regulations are found at 33 CFR 117.5.

The waterway has commercial oil barge traffic of various sizes and recreational vessels.

Consolidated Rail Corporation requested this temporary deviation from the normal operating schedule to facilitate essential maintenance repairs.

Under this temporary deviation, the Lehigh Valley

Drawbridge will operate according to the schedule below:

- a. From 7 a.m. through 5 p.m. on September 13, 2015 the bridge will not open to marine traffic.
- b. From 7 a.m. through 5 p.m., on September 14, 2015 the bridge will not open for marine traffic.
- c. Should a rain date be necessary, from 7 a.m. through 5 p.m. on September 20, 2015 the bridge will not open to marine traffic.

The bridge will not be able to open in the event of an emergency. There is no alternate route for vessel traffic; however, vessels that can pass under the closed draws during this closure may do so at any time.

The Coast Guard will inform the users of the waterway through our Local Notice 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: August 19, 2015

C.J. BISIGNANO
Supervisory Bridge Management Specialist
First Coast Guard District

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