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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG–2024–0463]

RIN 1625–AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Three Mile Slough, Near Rio Vista, CA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is temporarily modifying the operating schedule that governs the draw of the California Department of Transportation Route 160 bridge, across Three Mile Slough, mile 0.1 near Rio Vista, CA. This action is necessary to allow the bridge owner to complete electrical and mechanical rehabilitation of the bridge.

DATES: This temporary interim rule is effective from July 2, 2024 through 7 p.m. on August 30, 2024.

Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before August 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Type the docket number (USCG–2024–0463) in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH.” In the Document Type column, select “Supporting & Related Material”.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary interim rule, call or email Carl Hausner, Chief, Bridge Section, Eleventh Coast Guard District; telephone 510–437–3516, email Carl.T.Hausner@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
Caltrans California Department of Transportation
DHS Department of Homeland Security

FR Federal Register
NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking
Pub. L. Public Law
§ Section
U.S.C. United States Code

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary interim rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because it is impracticable. This bridge is non-operational and will be non-operational until rehabilitation work can be completed.

On December 14, 2023, the Coast Guard issued a General Deviation which allowed the bridge owner, Caltrans, to deviate from the current operating schedule in 33 CFR 117.5 in order to conduct major mechanical and electrical rehabilitation of the bridge. Due to delays caused by weather, design changes, and supply chain issues the project will run past the end date of the General Deviation on June 30, 2024. As such, the bridge cannot be brought back to operating condition until the work is complete, which remains dependent on continuing good weather and the resolution of supply chain issues. Therefore, there is insufficient time to provide a reasonable comment period and then consider those comments before issuing the modification.

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making it effective in less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. For reasons presented above, delaying the effective date of this rule would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest due to the fact that the bridge is currently inoperable and will not be back into operation until the electrical and mechanical rehabilitation work can be completed.

We are soliciting comments on this rulemaking. If the Coast Guard determines that changes to the

temporary interim rule are necessary, we will publish a temporary final rule or other appropriate document.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary interim rule under authority in 33 U.S.C. 499. The Coast Guard is modifying the operating schedule that governs the draw of the California Department of Transportation Route 160 bridge, across Three Mile Slough, mile 0.1 near Rio Vista, CA. The Route 160 bridge has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 12.4 feet at mean high water, and 107.4 feet of vertical clearance when in the fully opened-to-navigation position.

The existing drawbridge regulation, 33 CFR 117.5, states “Except as otherwise authorized or required by this part, drawbridges must open promptly and fully for the passage of vessels when a request or signal to open is given in accordance with this subpart.” Caltrans, the bridge owner, has requested additional time to complete the bridge rehabilitation.

IV. Discussion of the Temporary Interim Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule, which permits a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the draw of the California Department of Transportation Route 160 bridge, across Three Mile Slough, mile 0.1 near Rio Vista, CA. This rule allows the bridge to be secured in the closed-to-navigation position through 7 p.m. on August 30, 2024.

As part of the bridge rehabilitation, Caltrans has removed and is replacing all the electrical and key mechanical components that control the draw span’s operation. On May 21, 2024, Caltrans informed the Coast Guard their contractor had parts and material on backorder due to supply chain issues, and the original design for the rehabilitation work needed revisions. In addition, Caltrans informed the Coast Guard that delays due to weather extended the completion date of the project. The supply chain issue, the redesign, and an active storm season have delayed the completion of the bridge rehabilitation. Currently, the draw span remains inoperable until the work is completed. The anticipated completion date for the rehabilitation is August 30, 2024.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this temporary interim rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive Orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive Orders.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, it has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the fact that even though vessels, which require this draw span to open may be impacted by this action, vessels still can take an alternate route to reach either side of the bridge. Furthermore, the draw span of the bridge, as of date of the publication of this rule, is not operational and cannot resume operations until rehabilitation work is complete.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. 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 rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the bridge may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

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 rule. 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 person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees

who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247). 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.

C. Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Government

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does 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.

E. 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 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023–01, Rev. 1,

associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning Policy COMDTINST 5090.1 (series) which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f). The Coast Guard has determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule promulgates the operating regulations or procedures for drawbridges and is categorically excluded from further review, under paragraph L49, of Chapter 3, Table 3–1 of the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Implementation Procedures.

Neither a Record of Environmental Consideration nor a Memorandum for the Record are required for this rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For the reasons discussed 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; 33 CFR 1.05–1; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

■ 2. Add § 117.T198 to read as follows:

§ 117.T198 Three Mile Slough

The draw of the California Department of Transportation Route 160 bridge, mile 0.1, near Rio Vista need not open for the passage of vessels.

Dated: June 26, 2024.

Andrew M. Sugimoto,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander,
Eleventh Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2024–14545 Filed 7–1–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket No. USCG–2024–0572]

Safety Zones; Annual Events in the Captain of the Port Eastern Great Lakes Zone

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notification of enforcement of regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will enforce multiple safety zones located in federal