

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. Section 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 8:30 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: September 10, 2006.

Joel R. Whitehead,

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

[FR Doc. E6–15558 Filed 9–19–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD08–06–034]

RIN 1625–AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bayou Lafourche, LA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to change the regulations governing the draw of the Valentine Pontoon Bridge across Bayou Lafourche, mile 44.7, in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The regulation will allow for the bridge to be unmanned and remain closed during hours of infrequent traffic with an advance notification requirement to open the bridge.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before November 20, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander

(dpb), 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 504–671–2128.

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 [CGD08–06–034], 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 the Valentine Pontoon Bridge across Bayou Lafourche, mile 44.7, in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The majority of the bridge's openings occur between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The bridge owner proposes to continue to open the bridge on signal during these hours and to open the bridge on signal if at least four hours advance notification is given between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Presently, the draw of the bridge opens on signal for the passage of traffic.

Several large shipyards are located on Bayou Lafourche upstream of the bridge. The Lafourche Parish Council has contacted these facilities and has received letters of no objection to the proposed changes. A recent review of the bridge tender logs indicates that approximately 700 vessels transited through the bridge over the past year. Approximately 80% of the vessels transiting through the bridge site did so between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Additionally, it would appear that the majority of the night time openings for the bridge are for trawl vessels and they appear to increase during the months of May and August. Many of the trawl vessels appear to transit in clusters and pass through the bridge site on the same bridge opening. Presently, it is unclear as to whether or not a four-hour advance notification will place an undue burden on the vessel owners; however, the regulation will be written so that the bridge will be required to open on signal during the advance notification period if a temporary surge in water traffic occurs.

Traffic counts were not included as part of the submittal from the bridge owner as the request is to reduce the requirement of having a bridge tender at the bridge 24 hours a day due to the limited number of vessel openings that occur during the hours of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

The proposed rule would modify the existing regulations in 33 CFR 117.465. The modification to the regulations will require the bridge owner to open the bridge on signal from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily for the passage of vessels. At all other times, the bridge will open for signal for the passage of vessels if at least four hours advance notification is given. This modification will allow the bridge owner to reduce their requirements to have a bridge tender at the bridge site at all times. The SR 3220 bridge, mile 49.2, at Lockport, is required to open on signal for the passage of vessels; except that from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m., the bridge draw shall open on signal if at least four hours advance notification is given. As the next bridge upstream from the Valentine Bridge already has a more restrictive regulation established, the new regulation will only directly affect those individuals whose vessels or facilities are located within this five mile stretch of the waterway. The two largest commercial facilities have already submitted letters of no objection to the proposed changes.

Included in the regulation will be a clause similar to that which is included on the SR 3220 bridge that requires the bridge owner to open the bridge in less than four hours for an emergency and to open the bridge on signal if a temporary surge in water traffic occurs.

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 is unnecessary.

Prior to proposing this rule, the Coast Guard analyzed the bridge usage records and determined that requiring four hours notice during off peak periods would have minimal impact on commercial vessel traffic. This proposed rule allows vessels ample opportunity to transit this waterway during the day and with minimal advanced notification at all other 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, we believe that this rule should be categorically excluded, under figure 2–1, paragraph (32)(e), of the Instruction, from further environmental documentation. Under figure 2–1, paragraph (32)(e), of the Instruction, an “Environmental Determination Check List” and a “Categorical Exclusion Determination” are not required for this rule. However, comments on this section still be considered before the final rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

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. In § 117.465, paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) are redesignated paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g). A new paragraph (b) is added to read as follows:

§ 117.465 Lafourche Bayou.

* * * * *

(b) The draw of the Valentine bridge, mile 44.7 at Valentine, shall open on signal; except that, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., the draw shall open on signal if at least four hours advance notification is given. During the advance notification period, the draw shall open on less than four hours notice for an emergency and shall open on demand should a temporary surge in water traffic occur.

* * * * *

Dated: September 10, 2006.

Joel R. Whitehead,

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

[FR Doc. E6–15561 Filed 9–19–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Copyright Office

37 CFR Part 201

[Docket No. RM 2005–5]

Retransmission of Digital Broadcast Signals Pursuant to the Cable Statutory License

AGENCY: Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

ACTION: Notice of Inquiry.

SUMMARY: The Copyright Office is seeking comment on copyright issues associated with the secondary transmission of digital television broadcast signals by cable operators under the Copyright Act.

DATES: Written comments are due November 6, 2006. Reply comments are due December 4, 2006. September 20, 2006.

ADDRESSES: If hand delivered by a private party, an original and five copies of a comment or reply comment should be brought to Library of Congress, U.S. Copyright Office, 2221 S. Clark Street, 11th Floor, Arlington, VA. 22202, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The envelope should be addressed as follows: Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Copyright Office.

If delivered by a commercial courier, an original and five copies of a comment or reply comment must be delivered to the Congressional Courier Acceptance Site (“CCAS”) located at 2nd and D Streets, NE, Washington, D.C. between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The envelope should be addressed as follows: Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Copyright Office, LM 430, James Madison Building, 101 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC. Please note that CCAS will not accept delivery by means of overnight delivery services such as Federal Express, United Parcel Service or DHL.

If sent by mail (including overnight delivery using U.S. Postal Service Express Mail), an original and five copies of a comment or reply comment should be addressed to U.S. Copyright Office, Copyright GC/I&R, P.O. Box 70400, Southwest Station, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ben Golant, Senior Attorney, and Tanya M. Sandros, Associate General Counsel, Copyright GC/I&R, P.O. Box 70400, Southwest Station, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (202) 707–8380. Telefax: (202) 707–8366.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 111 of the Copyright Act (“Act”), title

17 of the United States Code (“Section 111”) provides cable systems with a statutory license to retransmit a performance or display of a work embodied in a primary transmission made by a television station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”). Cable systems that retransmit broadcast signals in accordance with the provisions governing the statutory license set forth in Section 111 are required to pay royalty fees to the Copyright Office. Payments made under the cable statutory license are remitted semi-annually to the Copyright Office which invests the royalties in United States Treasury securities pending distribution of these funds to those copyright owners who are entitled to receive a share of the fees.

The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (“MPAA”), its member companies and other producers and/or distributors of movies, series and specials broadcast by television stations (“Program Suppliers”) and the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Football League, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Hockey League and the Women’s National Basketball Association (“Joint Sports Claimants” or “JSC”) (collectively, “Copyright Owners”) have requested that the Copyright Office commence a rulemaking to clarify the applicability of existing Copyright Office rules to the retransmission of digital broadcast signals under the statutory license set forth in Section 111 of the Copyright Act.

The regulatory actions requested by Copyright Owners are properly within the authority of the Copyright Office. 17 U.S.C. 111(d) and 702. However, the retransmission of digital broadcast signals under Section 111 raises many issues, some of which require further elucidation before amending Section 201.17 of title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR” or “Section 201.17”) and the associated cable Statement of Account forms (“SOAs”). We therefore initiate this Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”) to address the matters raised by the Copyright Owners’ Petition for Rulemaking¹ and to seek comment on other possible changes to the Copyright Office’s existing rules and cable SOA forms.

¹ The petition and the attachments may be viewed on the Copyright Office website at: <http://copyright.gov/docs/cable/digitalsignals.pdf> and <http://copyright.gov/docs/cable/digitalsignals-attachments.pdf>.