



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2017-0979]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Kent Island Narrows, Grasonville, MD

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 U.S. Route 50/301 (Kent Narrows) Bridge across the Kent Island Narrows, mile 1.0, at Grasonville, MD. The deviation is necessary to facilitate a routine inspection. This deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed-to-navigation position.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 9 a.m. on November 7, 2017, to 3 p.m. on November 9, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, [USCG-2017-0979] 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary deviation, call or email Mr. Mickey Sanders, Bridge Administration Branch Fifth District, Coast Guard; telephone (757) 398-6587, email Mickey.D.Sanders2@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Maryland State Highway Administration, owner and operator of the U.S. Route 50/301 (Kent Narrows) Bridge across the Kent Island Narrows, mile 1.0, at Grasonville, MD, has requested a temporary deviation from the current operating schedule to accommodate a routine inspection. The bridge has a vertical clearance of 18 feet above mean high water (MHW) in the closed position.

The current operating schedule is set out in 33 CFR 117.561. Under this temporary deviation, the bridge will require 30 minutes advanced notice to open from 9 a.m. on November 7, 2017, to 3 p.m. on November 9, 2017.

The Kent Island Narrows is used by a variety of vessels including small commercial vessels, recreational vessels and tug and barge traffic. The Coast Guard has carefully coordinated the restrictions with waterway users in publishing this temporary deviation.

Vessels able to pass through the bridge in the closed position may do so if at least 15 minutes notice is given. The bridge will be able to open for emergencies and there

is no immediate alternate route for vessels unable to pass through the bridge in the closed position. The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterways through our Local and Broadcast Notice to Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge so that vessel operators can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by this temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of this effective period of this temporary deviation. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: October 31, 2017.

Hal R. Pitts,
Bridge Program Manager,
Fifth Coast Guard District.
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