DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG-2021-0615]

RIN 1625-AA00

Safety Zone; Ohio River, Owensboro, KY

AGENCY: Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone from mile marker 756 to 757 of the Ohio River. The safety zone is needed to protect life and the marine environment from potential hazards created by the Owensboro Fireworks and Bridge Lights show display. This temporary final rule would prohibit persons and vessels from entering the safety zone unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector Ohio Valley or a designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective from 6 p.m. through 9 p.m. on August 21, 2021.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to https://www.regulations.gov, type USCG-2021-0615 in the search box and click "Search." Next, in the Document Type column, select “Supporting & Related Material.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email Petty Officer Christopher Roble, Sector Ohio Valley, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone (502) 779-5336, email SECOHV-WWM@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations
II. Background Information and Regulatory History

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary 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)(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. We must establish this safety zone by August 21, 2021, and lack sufficient time to provide a reasonable comment period and then consider those comments before issuing this rule.

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Delaying the effective date of this rule would be contrary to public interest because immediate action is needed to ensure the safety of the participants and vessels during the Owensboro Fireworks and Bridge Lights show on August 21, 2021.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034 (previously 33 U.S.C. 1231). The Captain of the Port Sector Ohio Valley (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the Owensboro Fireworks and Bridge Lights show on August 21, 2021, will be a safety concern for anyone within a 1.0 mile radius of the fireworks barge. This rule is needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment in the navigable waters within the safety zone while the Owensboro
Fireworks and Bridge Lights show is occurring.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a temporary safety zone on the Ohio River, starting at mile marker 756 and ending at 757, extending from bank to bank within the river. The safety zone will be enforced from 6 p.m. through 9 p.m. on August 21, 2021. The duration of the zone is intended to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment in these navigable waters while the Owensboro Fireworks and Bridge Lights show is taking place. No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this 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, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

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, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, location, duration, and time-of-day of the safety zone. The Coast Guard would issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16 about the zone, and the rule would allow vessels to seek permission to enter the zone.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 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 safety zone 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 (Public Law 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 call or email 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 will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

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 Directive
023-01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning
COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have
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 involves a
safety zone lasting 3 hours spread over the course of 1 day that would prohibit entry
within 1 mile of the fireworks barge. It is categorically excluded from further review
under paragraph L60(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–
001–01, Rev. 1. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination
is available in the docket. For instructions on locating the docket, see the ADDRESSES
section of this preamble.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are
asked to call or email the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received
without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping
requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part
165 as follows:

PART 165 – REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS
AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5;
Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.2.

2. Add § 165.T08-0438 to read as follows:

§ 165.T08-0438 Safety Zone; Ohio River, Owensboro, KY.

(a) Location. The following area is a safety zone: All navigable waters of the
Ohio River between MM 756 to MM 757 in Owensboro, KY.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section, designated representative means a Coast
Guard Patrol Commander, including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other
officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated
by or assisting the Captain of the Port Sector Ohio Valley (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone.

(c) Regulations. (1) Under the general safety zone regulations in subpart C of this part, you may not enter the safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP’s designated representative.

(2) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP’s representative by VHF-FM radio channel 16 or phone at 1-800-253-7465. Those in the safety zone must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP’s designated representative.

(d) Enforcement periods. This section will be enforced from 6 p.m. through 9 p.m. on August 21, 2021.

Dated: August 5, 2021.

A. M. Beach,
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,
Captain of the Port Sector Ohio Valley.

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