This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 2026-09-17 and available online at **https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-19059**, and on **https://govinfo.gov**

9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket Number USCG-2026-0960]

RIN 1625-AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Connecticut River, East Haddam, CT

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to modify the operating schedule that governs the Route 82 Bridge across Connecticut River, mile 16.8, at East Haddam, CT. The bridge owner, Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), submitted a request on July 10, 2026, to remove the opening restrictions currently in place for November 1 through April 30 and allow the bridge to provide consistent bridge operations throughout the year. We invite your comments on this proposed rulemaking.

DATES: Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before [INSERT DATE **30** DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2026-0960 at https://www.regulations.gov.

See the "Public Participation and Request for Comments" portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for instructions on submitting comments. This notice of proposed rulemaking with its plain-language, 100-word-or-less proposed rule summary will be available in this same docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this proposed rule, call or e-mail Ms. Stephanie E. Lopez, Northeast Coast Guard District, Bridge Management Specialist, telephone 571-608-5676, email Stephanie.E.Lopez@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	*Federal Register*
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Advance, Supplemental)
§	Section
U.S.C.	United States Code
CTDOT	Connecticut Department of Transportation

II. Background, Purpose and Legal Basis

The Route 82 Bridge at mile 16.8, across the Connecticut River, East Haddam, CT, has a vertical clearance of 22 feet at mean high water in the closed position and a horizontal clearance of approximately 180 feet. Waterway users include recreational and commercial vessels to include fishing vessels.

The existing drawbridge operating regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.205(c). The current regulations in 33 CFR 117.205(c) contain the following two sections: (1) From May 1 through October 31, the draw shall open on signal for commercial vessels. For recreational vessels, the draw shall open on signal, except that from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. the draw need open for recreational vessels on the hour only. (2) From November 1 through April 30, the draw shall open on signal for all vessels, except from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. the draw shall open on signal if at least six-hours' notice is given by calling the phone number posted at the bridge.

CTDOT is requesting the modification of the requirements in 33 CFR Part 117.205(c) to provide consistent bridge openings and continuous uniform regulation by

removing the required six-hour notice from November 1 through April 30. CTDOT will provide bridge attendants on a continuous basis to provide consistent bridge operations throughout the year. By removing this restriction and adding continuous bridge attendants, this will allow the draw to open on signal for commercial vessels year-round. The draw will open for recreational vessels on signal, except between the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. when the draw will be opened for recreational vessels when needed on the hour only.

III. Discussion of Proposed Rule

The proposed rule removes operating restrictions previously required between November 1 through April 30, providing consistent operations throughout the year. The draw shall open on signal for commercial vessels year-round. For recreational vessels, the draw shall open on signal year-round, except between the hours from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. where the draw will open for recreational vessels when needed on the hour only.

IV. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this proposed 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. 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 proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities for the following reasons.

This regulatory action improves the ability of the bridge to open on signal for both

commercial and recreational vessels, reducing potential delays for vessels transiting the Connecticut River in the vicinity of the bridge.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this 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 rule would economically affect it.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), if this proposed 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. The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this proposed rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

B. Collection of Information

This proposed rule would not call for new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.).

C. 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 proposed 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 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. If you believe this proposed rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

D. 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 proposed rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this proposed rule elsewhere in this preamble.

E. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023-01, Rev. 01., 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 et seq.). 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 proposed rule promulgates the operating regulations or procedures for drawbridges. Normally such actions are categorically excluded from further review, under paragraph L49, of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 01.

Neither a Record of Environmental Consideration nor a Memorandum for the Record are required for this rule. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this proposed rule.

V. Public Participation and Request for Comments

We view public participation as essential to effective rulemaking and will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comment can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

Submitting comments. We encourage you to submit comments at https://www.regulations.gov. To do so, go to https://www.regulations.gov, type USCG-2026-0960 in the search box and click "Search." Next, look for this document in the **Search Results** column, and click on it. Then click on the **Comment** option. If your material cannot be submitted using https://www.regulations.gov, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions.

Viewing material in docket. To view documents mentioned in this proposed rule as being available in the docket, find the docket as described in the previous paragraph, and then select "Supporting & Related Material" in the Document Type column. Public comments will be placed in our online docket and can be viewed by following instructions on the https://www.regulations.gov Frequently Asked Questions webpage. If you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts through the "Subscribe" option, you will be notified when comments/updates are posted, or a final rule is published.

Personal information. We accept anonymous comments. Comments we post to *https://www.regulations.gov* will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions in response to this document, see DHS's eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020).

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; 33 CFR 1.05-1; and DHS Delegation No. 00170.1. Revision No. 01.4.

2. Revise § 117.205 paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 117.205 Connecticut River

*****

(c) The draw of the Route 82 Bridge at mile 16.8, across the Connecticut River, East Haddam, CT, shall open on signal for commercial vessels year-round. For recreational vessels, the draw will open on signal year-round, except for the period from 6 a.m. through 8 p.m. daily when the draw will only open on the hour for recreational vessels when needed.

Matthew Lake,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard,
Commander, Northeast Coast Guard District
[FR Doc. 2026-19059 Filed: 9/16/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/17/2026]