

Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not cause an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Indian Tribal Governments

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.

Energy Effects

We have analyzed this 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. It has not been designated by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

Environment

We have considered the environmental impact of this rule and concluded that, under figure 2-1, paragraph 32(e), of Commandant Instruction M16475.ID, this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. This final rule only involves the operation of an existing drawbridge and will not have any impact on the environment. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard is amending Part 117 of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations 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; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g); section 117.255 also issued

under the authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. § 117.451(c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 117.451 Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

* * * * *

(c) The draw of the Bayou Dularge bridge, mile 59.9, at Houma, shall open on signal; except that, the draw need not open for the passage of vessels Monday through Friday except Federal holidays from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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Dated: January 15, 2003.

J.R. Whitehead,

*Captain, Coast Guard, Acting Commander,
8th Coast Guard District.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD08-02-023]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Houma Navigation Canal, LA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is changing the existing drawbridge operation regulation for the draw of the SR661 bridge across the Houma Navigation Canal, mile 36.0, at Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. The modification will allow for the morning closure period to be increased by 30 minutes to facilitate the movement of high volumes of vehicular traffic across the bridge during peak traffic hours.

DATES: This rule is effective February 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket CGD8-02-0023 and are available for inspection or copying at the office of the Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-3396, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (504) 589-2965. Commander, Eighth District (obc), maintains the public docket for this rulemaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Frank, Bridge Administration Branch, at (504) 589-2965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

On October 21, 2002, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled Drawbridge Operation Regulation, Houma Navigation Canal, LA in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 64578). We received two responses commenting on the proposed rule. No public hearing was requested, and none was held.

Background and Purpose

Presently, the draw of the SR 661 bridge, mile 36.0, at Houma shall open on signal, except that the draw need not be opened for the passage of vessels Monday through Friday except holidays from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has requested a modification to the morning bridge operation schedule to allow the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 6:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. vice 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The bridge serves as an important link between the largest residential neighborhoods in Terrebonne Parish and the Central Business District. Approximately 13,000 vehicles cross the bridge daily, 10% of which cross the bridge during the requested closure times. The adjustment to the morning closure period reflects a change to expand the closure period to align with the heaviest commuter traffic. The amount of commuter traffic continues to increase. The bridge averages 953 openings a month. It is estimated that 3 tows a month will be delayed by the additional 30-minute morning closure request. In a 17-day review period in July 2002, two tows requiring bridge openings were delayed during the requested additional time period. The average length of the bridge opening is less than ten minutes, delaying an average of 60 vehicles for each opening.

Discussion of Comments and Changes

The Coast Guard received two letters in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. One letter was from a state senator representing the Terrebonne Parish area who strongly supported the proposed change. The second letter was received from the National Marine Fisheries Service stating that the drawbridge was not in their area of responsibility and declined comment. Only one minor administrative change was made to the final rule. The word "Federal" was added to the phrase "except holidays" to clarify when the rule will be in effect. No other changes