April 28, 2017. Monday through Friday, 24 hours a day.

The Chincoteague Channel is used by a variety of vessels including public vessels, small commercial vessels, tug and barge traffic, and recreational vessels. 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-to-navigation position may do so at anytime. The bridge will not be able to open for emergencies and there is no immediate alternative route for vessels unable to pass through the bridge in the closed position. The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterway through our Local Notice and Broadcast Notices 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 the temporary deviation.

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


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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this ruling, call or email Petty Officer James Robinson, Sector Ohio Valley, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 502–779–5347, email James.C.Robinson@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

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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 good cause exists for making it 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 lack sufficient time to provide a reasonable comment period and then consider those comments before issuing the rule. The NPRM process would delay the immediate action needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from potential safety hazards associated with the fireworks event. In addition, the fireworks event is being held only one weekend later than the currently published date, which had to be rescheduled due to a holiday scheduling conflict. Upon receiving full details of this event, the Coast Guard determined that a safety zone was necessary to protect life and property during a fireworks display on or over this navigable waterway.

We are issuing this rule, and under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making it effective less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Delaying this rule would be contrary to public interest of ensuring the safety of spectators and vessels during the event. An immediate action is necessary to prevent the loss of life and property during the hazards created by a fireworks display on or over the waterway. Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNM) and information sharing with the waterway users will update mariners of the restrictions, requirements and enforcement times during this temporary situation.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 33 U.S.C. 1231. The Captain of the Port Ohio Valley (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the fireworks display on April 21, 2017 will be a safety concern for all waters of the Ohio River, surface bottom, extending from miles 803.5 to 804.5. The purpose of this rule is to ensure safety of life on the navigable waters within the temporary zone before, during, and after the Henderson Breakfast Lions Club Tri-Fest fireworks display.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a safety zone on April 21, 2017, or in the case of a rain delay, on April 22, 2017. The safety zone will cover all waters of the Ohio River, surface to bottom, extending from miles 803.5 to 804.5. Transit into and through this restricted area is prohibited from 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on April 21, 2017, and, in case of a delay because of rain, during the same hours on April 22, 2017. The duration of the safety zone is intended to ensure the safety of vessels and these navigable waters before, during, and after the scheduled fireworks displays. No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative. The COTP may be contacted by telephone at 1–800–253–7475 or can be reached by VHF–FM channel 16. Public notifications will be made to the local maritime community prior to the event through the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM), and BNMs.
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. Executive Order 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, it has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, location, duration, and time-of-year of the safety zone. The temporary safety zone will only be in effect for approximately 30 minutes. The Coast Guard expects minimum adverse impact to mariners from the safety zone’s activation as the event has been extensively advertised to the public. Also, mariners may request authorization from the COTP or the designated representatives to transit the safety zones.

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 (Pub. L. 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 contact 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. If you believe this rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section above.

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 $165,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such 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 Management Directive 023–01 and Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, 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 less than one hour that will prohibit entry on all waters of the Ohio River, surface to bottom, extending from mile 803.5 to 804.5. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph 34(g) of Figure 2–1 of the Commandant Instruction. An environmental analysis checklist supporting this determination and a Categorical Exclusion Determination are available in the docket where indicated under ADDRESSES.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protestors. Protesters are asked to contact 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:


2. Add § 165.08–0174 to read as follows:
§ 165.08–0174 Safety zone; Ohio River Miles 803.5 to 804.5, Henderson, KY.

(a) Location. The following area is a temporary safety zone: All navigable waters of the Ohio River between mile 803.5 and mile 804.5, Henderson, KY, extending the entire width of the Ohio River.

(b) Enforcement period. This section will be enforced from 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on April 21, 2017. In case of a delay because of rain, the section will be enforced from 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on April 22, 2017.

(c) Regulations. (1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23, entry into the zone described in paragraph (a) of this section is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Ohio Valley (COTP) or designated personnel. Persons or vessels desiring to enter into or pass through the zone must request permission from the COTP or a designated representative. They may be contacted on VHF–FM radio channel 16 or phone at 1–800–253–7465.

(2) Persons and vessels permitted to enter this safety zone, must transit at the slowest safe speed and comply with all lawful directions issued by the COTP or the designated representative.

(d) Informational broadcasts. The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public through broadcast notices to mariners of the enforcement period for the regulated area as well as any changes in the planned schedule.


M.B. Zamperini,
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Ohio Valley.

[FR Doc. 2017–07518 Filed 4–13–17; 8:45 am]

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