

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
First Coast Guard District

One South Street
Battery Park Building
New York, NY 10004-1466
Staff Symbol: (dpb)
Phone: (212) 514-4331

16593
March 12, 2019

National Railroad Passenger Corporation
Attn: Paul DelSignore
Deputy Chief Engineer - Structures
2955 Market Street, Box 55
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Mr. DelSignore:

In response to your letter dated December 4, 2018, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is authorized to deviate temporarily from the drawbridge operation regulations 33 CFR 117.723(e) that govern the Amtrak Portal Bridge across Hackensack River, mile 5.0, at Little Snake Hill, New Jersey.

Under this deviation, in effect from 12:01 a.m. on March 14, 2019 to 11:59 p.m. on September 9, 2019, the Amtrak Portal Bridge need not open for the passage of vessel traffic from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Additional bridge openings shall be provided for tide restricted commercial vessels from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., if at least a two-hour advance notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge. At all other times the bridge shall open on signal if at least two-hour advance notice is given. The U.S. Coast Guard will announce the temporary deviation in the Local Notice to Mariners and Broadcast Notice to Mariners or Safety Marine Information Bulletin.

This deviation may not be changed or extended without written approval from the U.S. Coast Guard. Approval of this temporary deviation is conditional and may be withdrawn at any time if the U.S. Coast Guard determines that the safety of human life, the environment, or the needs of navigation become endangered.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the bridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the designated time-period.

Amtrak may utilize the comments collected under Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number USCG-2019-0086 through July 12, 2019 as part of your data collection.

Under 33 CFR 117.55 you are required to post signs both upstream and downstream summarizing the temporary drawbridge operation regulations. The signs shall be of sufficient size and so located as to be easily read from an approaching vessel. The signs should also state the telephone number to call for the advance notice requirement.

The imposition of civil penalties may result for failure to ensure that all our stipulations are followed in their entirety. Please do not hesitate to contact bridge management specialist Ms. Judy Leung-Yee at (212) 514-4336 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C.J. Bisignano".

C.J. Bisignano
Supervisory Bridge Management Specialist
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

E-Copy: CG Sector New York WWM