

of the receipt of the request. If the request is denied, the reasons for the denial are forwarded with the decision.

(b) When the draw is rendered inoperative because of damage to the structure or when vital, unscheduled repair or maintenance work shall be performed without delay, the drawbridge owner shall immediately notify the District Commander and give the reasons why the draw is or should be rendered inoperative and the expected date of completion of the repair or maintenance work.

(c) All repair or maintenance work under this section shall be performed with all due speed in order to return the draw to operation as soon as possible.

(d) If the operation of the draw will be affected for periods of less than 60 days, the regulations in this part will not be amended. Where practicable, the District Commander publishes notice of the temporary deviations from the regulations in this part in the FEDERAL REGISTER and Local Notices to Mariners. If operation of the draw is expected to be affected for more than 60 days, the District Commander publishes temporary regulations covering the repair period.

§ 117.37 Opening or closure of draw for public interest concerns.

(a) For reasons of public health or safety or for public functions, such as street parades and marine regattas, the District Commander may authorize the opening or closure of a drawbridge for a specified period of time.

(b) Requests for opening or closure of a draw shall be submitted to the District Commander at least 30 days before the proposed opening or closure and include a brief description of the proposed event or other reason for the request, the reason why the opening or closure is required, and the times and dates of the period the draw is to remain open or closed.

(c) Approval by the District Commander depends on the necessity for the opening or closure, the reasonableness of the times and dates, and the overall effect on navigation and users of the bridge.

§ 117.39 Closure of draw due to infrequent use.

Upon written request by the owner or operator of a drawbridge, the District Commander may, after notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER and opportunity for public comment, permit the draw to be closed and untended due to infrequency of use of the draw by vessels. The District Commander may condition approval on the continued maintenance of the operating machinery.

§ 117.41 Maintenance of draw in fully open position.

The draw may be maintained in the fully open position to permit the passage of vessels and drawtender service discontinued if the District Commander is notified in advance. The draw shall remain in the fully open position until drawtender service is restored or authorization under § 117.39 is given for the draw to remain closed and untended.

§ 117.43 Changes in draw operation requirements for regulatory purposes.

In order to evaluate suggested changes to the drawbridge operation requirements, the District Commander may authorize temporary deviations from the regulations in this part for periods not to exceed 90 days. Notice of these deviations is disseminated in the Local Notices to Mariners and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[CGD-92-015b, 58 FR 46081, Sept. 1, 1993]

§ 117.45 Operation during winter season in the Great Lakes area.

(a) The Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District, may determine that drawbridges located in the Ninth Coast Guard District need not open during the winter season when general navigation is curtailed, unless a request to open the draw is given at least 12 hours before the time of the intended passage.

(b) Notice of these determinations is disseminated in Local Notices to Mariners and other appropriate media. Notices indicate—

- (1) The name and location of the bridge affected;
- (2) The period of time covered; and