



**Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh
Waterways Information
December 2019**



Allegheny River

Ninth Street Bridge (0.8): Due to planned work, the vertical clearance may be reduced more than one foot below low steel. Mariners are urged to transit with caution.

16th Street Bridge (1.4): Due to planned work, the vertical clearance may be reduced more than one foot below low steel. Mariners are urged to transit with caution.

Ohio River

Wellsburg Bridge (75.5): Trestle and cofferdam installation underway. The new bridge will provide a minimum of 800 feet of horizontal clearance. Environmental review underway.

Bellaire Bridge (94.3): Demolition date to be determined.

Tygart River

1-79 Twin Bridges Replacement (2.6): Pre-application stage.

Upcoming Marine Events

| Date | Event | Waterway | Closure | Time |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| 12/05/19 – 12/11/19 | Kent/AEP Powerline Pull | Ohio River 103-105 | Full | 0700-1730 |

Areas of Interest

1. Merchant Mariner Examination Working Group 2020 meeting schedule:

The National Maritime Center posted a [notice](#) on its website seeking participants for the Merchant Mariner Examination Working Group meetings scheduled for 2020. Section 315 of the 2015 Coast Guard Authorization Act requires the Coast Guard to commission a working group to review existing and new examination questions for accuracy and availability of examination references. Examination question review is an opportunity to help the National Maritime Center and other mariners make long-term improvements to the knowledge examination system. The [Examinations page](#) of the NMC website provides an outline of the process to request membership in the working group. Once on the Examinations page, click “Working Group” to access this information. Requests may be submitted at any time.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/11/05/merchant-mariner-examination-working-group-2020-meeting-schedule/>



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2020 Schedule



| Date | Type | Location |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| February 11-13 | Engine | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| March 10-12 | Deck | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| April 7-9 | Engine | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| July 14-16 | Deck | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| September 8-10 | Engine | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| October 6-8 | Deck | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |
| November 3-5 | Engine | NMC (Martinsburg, WV) |

Note: Dates are subject to change based on the number of attendees.

2. Updates to ship radio inspection checklists:

The Federal Communications Commission and the Coast Guard have updated radio inspection checklists to include tests for LED lighting interference with VHF radio and Automatic Identification System (AIS). The updated checklists also incorporate changes to regulatory and radio communication services. FCC updates are posted on their Enforcement Bureau Ship Inspection Checklist website and include the following checklists in PDF format:

- How to Conduct an Inspection of a Small Passenger Vessel
- How to Conduct a GMDSS Inspection
- How to Conduct a Great Lakes Small Passenger Vessel Inspection
- How to Conduct a Bridge to Bridge Inspection

The Navigation Center has also posted a new AIS Inspection Checklist & Report in PDF format on its AIS References webpage.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/10/11/updates-to-ship-radio-inspection-checklists/>

3. Updated Subchapter M FAQs now available:

The Subchapter M [FAQ page](#) has been updated to reflect current policy and guidance for implementation of 46 CFR Subchapter M. To access the full library of FAQs regarding Subchapter M, visit the Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise's [website](#). The FAQs are updated as of September 20, 2019 and a compilation of those changes can be viewed at the url below.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2019/09/25/updated-subchapter-m-faqs-now-available/>