



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information May 2020



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. Estimated completion is August of 2020.

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.

Ninth Street Bridge (90.8): Rehabilitation and painting. Vertical clearance reduced by 4 inches until Oct. 2022.

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

Tygart River

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

Areas of Interest

1. National Maritime Center launches electronic delivery process for renewal examinations: On May 1, 2020, the National Maritime Center (NMC) will launch a centralized electronic delivery process (via e-mail) for renewal examinations. This change provides mariners the ability to request, complete, and submit renewal examinations by e-mail and will help to maintain the flow of mariner credentials during the COVID-19 pandemic. Paper mailings will still be available upon request. Approval to test (ATT) letters for renewal examinations issued on or after May 1, 2020, will include directions on how to obtain an electronic examination, and the process will be outlined on the NMC [Examinations Page website](#). Mariners who received an ATT letter and have not received their examination may follow the new e-mail process. Mariners who already received a hard-copy renewal examination should complete it as directed in the previously mailed correspondence. Centralized electronic delivery process for renewal examinations:

1. ATT letter issued and mailed to the mariner by the NMC.
2. After receipt of the ATT letter, the mariner requests the exam at NMCRenewalExams@uscg.mil or by contacting the [NMC Customer Contact Center](#). If the examination fee is not paid, a copy of the Pay.Gov fee payment receipt must be provided with the request.
3. The NMC will e-mail the mariner a PDF copy of the examination module(s), a fillable answer sheet for each module, and directions for completing the process.
4. The mariner completes the answer sheet for each module and returns via e-mail in accordance with the directions. Mariners have the option to print and mail the answer sheets in accordance with the directions.



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5. The NMC will receive the answer sheets, grade them, and notify the mariner of the results, including any retests or re-examinations required.

6. Mariners may be approved for both an original and renewal examination on one application. They may use the new e-mail process for the renewal examination only and must schedule exams for the original at a Regional Examination Center using [existing processes](#).

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding this new process, contact the NMC Customer Service Center by e-mailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (427-5662).

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/04/24/national-maritime-center-launches-electronic-delivery-process-for-renewal-examinations/>

- 2. Towing Safety Advisory Committee Spring 2020 meeting summary:** On March 10, 2020 the Coast Guard's Towing Safety Advisory Committee conducted a teleconference meeting where committee members voted unanimously to accept and issue the Coast Guard a final report on Task No.17-02 – Load Line Exemptions for River Barges on Lakes Erie and Ontario. Additionally, the committee was issued a new work item under Task 16-01 – Subchapter M implementation. The updated 16-01 task requests that TSAC identify the parameters OCMI's should use to determine whether a vessel inspected under subchapters other than Subchapter M performs occasional towing.

Copies of the 17-02 Final Report, the updated Task 16-01, and signed meeting minutes can be found on the [Office of Operating and Environmental Standard's TSAC webpage](#).

If you have any questions regarding the Towing Vessel Safety Advisory Committee please contact to Mr. Matthew Layman by email at matthew.d.layman@uscg.mil.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/04/23/towing-safety-advisory-committee-spring-2020-meeting-summary/>