



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information November 2020



Ohio River

Wellsburg Bridge (75.5): Installation of drilled shafts has been completed. Construction process for the arch span is underway, along the upstream left descending bank. Floating into place of the bridge span is scheduled for early 2021.

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. MSIB: Novel Coronavirus – Mariner Credentials Update (Change 4):** The Coast Guard continues to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 impact to the maritime industry and mariners in order to take action needed to ensure the continuity of the Maritime Transportation System (MTS). In this light, the Coast Guard has posted [Change 4 to MSIB 08-20](#), titled COVID-19 – Mariner Credentials, which updates information on extensions to merchant mariner credentials, medical certificates and course approvals.

The following significant changes are provided in Change 4 to MSIB 08-20:

- Merchant mariner credentials, both national and STCW, that expire between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 are extended. The credentials are extended to the EARLIER of June 30, 2021 or one year from the expiration date of the credential. This reflects the fact that our statutory authority to extend credentials is limited to one year.
- In light of the recent closures of Regional Examination Centers to the public, approval to test letters and course approval certificates that expire between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 are extended to October 1, 2021.

I encourage all mariners, ship owners and operators and providers of Coast Guard approved training to read [MSIB 08-20, Change 4](#) carefully. While the Coast Guard has provided the extensions noted in the MSIB, mariners and training providers are strongly encouraged to fulfill the requirements and submit applications as early as possible in order to avoid a lapse in their credential or training approval. Similarly, training providers need to make every effort to submit their application early to avoid expiration of their current approval.

If you have questions, please contact the National Maritime Center by using the NMC's online chat system available at <https://www.uscg.mil/nmc>, by emailing IASKNMC@uscg.mil, or by calling 1-888-IASKNMC (472-5662). The Coast Guard will continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic and will make the necessary adjustments to ensure the continuity of maritime transportation within the MTS.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/09/30/msib-novel-coronavirus-mariner-credentials-update-change-4/>