# **United States Coast Guard**

## **Agency Web Sites**

- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- o Bridge Administration Manual
- Environmental Management

## **Mn/DOT Contact**

Minnesota Department of Transportation Bridge Office, Preliminary Bridge Plans Unit 3485 Hadley Avenue North, MS 610 Oakdale, Minnesota 55128 Phone: 651-366-4500

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Web site: Mn/DOT Bridge Office

## **Authority**

- o General Bridge Act of 1946 (33 USC 535 et. seq.)
- Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 401 et. seq.) Section 9 Permits.
- NEPA (42 USC & 332(s)(c))
- o Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1892.

<u>United States Code: Main Page</u> for viewing U.S. Codes above.

## Agency Role(s)

The USCG reviews and comments on environmental documentation for Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and in some particular cases Categorical Exclusions (CE) where navigable waters of the U.S. may be impacted.

In most cases the USCG will become an EIS cooperating agency when an USCG permit may be required or their special expertise is requested. The USCG has permit authority

for navigable waters of the US ("navigable" in the sense of being used for or susceptible to use for substantial interstate or foreign commerce).

Navigable Waters of the United States

# **Agency Areas of Concern**

- Navigation issues:
- Structure Clearance: horizontal, vertical
- Lights & signals on fixed structures
- Clearance gauges.
- Stream Modification guidance.

## Agreement(s)

Refer to **Bridge Administration Manual**.

# **Appendix**

Permit Process – U.S.C.G. (Section 9)

# Permit Process – USCG (Section 9)

1. Determine if permit is needed (see outline)

If no - simply state

"The proposed project does not involve a bridge replacement or alteration and therefore no USCG permit is required".

(or)

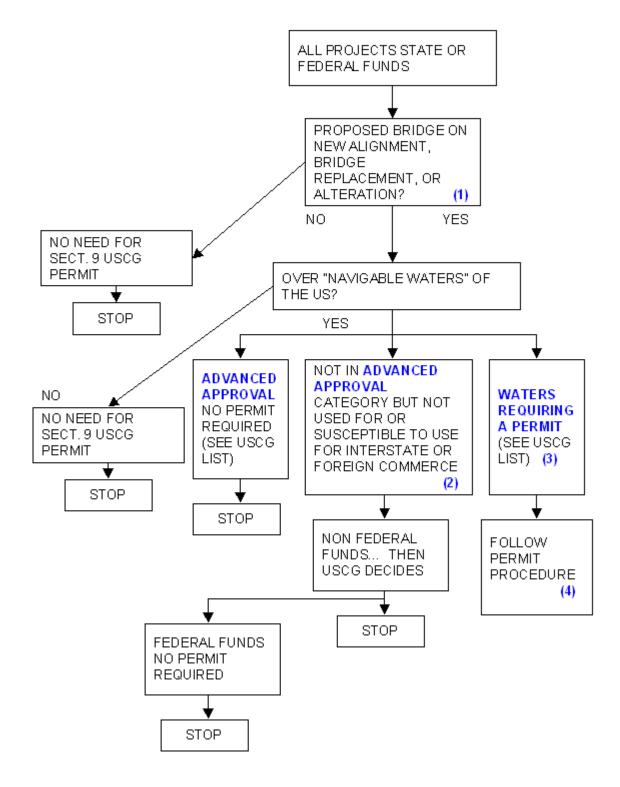
"The proposed project does involve a new bridge, bridge replacement or alteration but it is not over a navigable waterway used for or susceptible to use for substantial interstate or foreign commerce and is not on the list of waterways requiring bridge permits in Minnesota".

If yes -

"The proposed bridge (replacement or bridge alteration) project is over a waterway requiring a USCG Section 9 permit. Early coordination with the USCG has taken (or will take) place and a permit will be obtained when sufficient design information is available.

- Do early coordination with USCG in determining class of action request USCG to be cooperating agency when project requires permit and it is class I (EIS) or Class III (EA).
- 3. For Class I and III continue to consult with USCG during preparation of Draft EIS and Final EIS or EA and FONSI and attempt to resolve differences.
- 4. Consult with USCG regarding the need for public hearing opportunity and consider joint public hearing if appropriate.
- 5. Mn/DOT Bridge Section applies for permit as soon as is practicable after design work commences. An Application for each alternative design is sent to the USCG if more than one design is being considered.
- 6. If several alternative designs were considered, then the bridge section notifies USCG of the alternative selected within 30 days of bid award.

# U.S.C.G. PERMIT PROCESS (SECTION 9)



#### Flow chart notes

- Any repairs, relocation, reconstruction, additions, or modifications to a bridge which will change any of the information shown on the plans (permit drawings) – requires prior approval of USCG Commandant (this occurs if change results in horizontal or vertical clearance change).
- Navigable waters not in advanced approval category but not on list of waterways requiring bridge permits based upon informal coordination between Mn/DOT, FHWA and the USCG are not considered navigable in the sense of susceptible to use for interstate or foreign commerce.
- After beginning coordination with the USCG, the USCG may decide a permit is not needed
  if above the limits of actual navigation use. Proceed initially as though a permit will be
  needed.
- 4. This step involves communication of design features (i.e., clearance etc.) to the USCG and is outlined in the coast guard publication "Applications for Coast Guard Permits" for USCG Districts 2 and 9.

### Table 1

#### WATERWAYS REQUIRING BRIDGE PERMITS

(taken from *Applications for Coast Guard Bridge Permits*, Appendix 0, Second Coast Guard District, October, 1981)

Waterway	Upper Limit
Lac Qui Parle Reservoir Including Marsh Lake	In its entirety
Lake Traverse Reservoir Including Lake Traverse and Mud Lake	In its entirety
Minnesota River	Chaska, Min., Mile 29.6
St. Croix River	Taylor Falls, Min., Mile 51.8
Upper Mississippi	Coon Rapids Dam, Mile 866.2

## Table 2

### **WATERWAYS IN ADVANCE APPROVAL CATEGORY**

Location, Mouth of Waterway	Name of Waterway	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Bois De Sioux River (a)	Lake Traverse	Mouth	35.0
UMR, Mile 792.0 (a)	Cannon River	Mouth	0.2
UMR, Mile 844.0 (a)	Minnesota River	29.6	Big Stone Lake
N/A (a)	UMR866.2		Lake Winnibigoshish,
			Mile 1235.0
N/A (a)	Red River of the North	In its entirety	
UMR, Mile 694.0 (a)	Root River Mouth	2.6	
UMR, Mile 797.0 (a)	Vermillion Slough	Mouth	11.9
UMR, Mile 757.0 (a)	Zumbro River	Mouth	0.1
(a)	Rat Root River	Mouth	11.5
(b)	Mississippi River	46 20' N	Bemidji, Mile 1304.0
(b), (c)	Red River of the North	46 20' N	Canada
(b)	Little Fork River	Rainy River	Village of Little Fork
(b)	Big Fork River	Rainy River	Mile 10.0
(b)	Rat Root River	Black Bay Lake	Mile 11.5
(b)	Kawishiwi River,	From its mouth	Garden Lake
	Lake County		(including Garden Lake)

### Notes:

- (a) taken from *Applications for Coast Guard Bridge Permits*, Appendix 0, Second Coast Guard District, October 1981.
- (b) taken from USCG, Ninth District, letter from Chamberlain, dated May 7, 1973.
- (c) for administrative purposes this stream is under the jurisdiction of the 2nd Coast Guard District, located in St. Louis, Mo.