

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Thirteenth Coast Guard District

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16591/WA
August 27, 2019

Matthew Keim
Manger Engineering
BNSF Railway Company
Northtown GOB
80 – 44th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55421

Dear Mrs. Keim:

Subj: Temporary Bridge Navigation Clearance Requirements for BNSF Bridge 3.1 and 3.9.

Guiding Principles: The objective for the Coast Guard Bridge Program is to ensure the reasonable needs of navigation are maintained and that the safety of the mariner is provided for. At no time can a temporary work bridge create an obstacle or danger to navigation without prior approval from the Coast Guard. If there is any ambiguity with the instructions given below, BNSF will err on the side of improved/safety of navigation. BNSF will:

Maintain the ability for boaters to safely navigate under the 3.9 Bridge (Lake Pend Oreille)

1. Bridge South end: At summer pool levels at least 1 of the two 16.1ft vertical navigation spans (new bridge span 35 and or 38, which correspond to temporary bridge 72,73, 78,79, and existing bridge spans 66 and 69) will be unobstructed for vessel navigation at any given time until the lake level is lowered enough to allow 16+plus foot of vertical clearance at other span locations.
2. Bridge North end: At least half of the temporary bridge spans which closely align with the existing bridge spans (2 and 3; 14 through 17; 27 through 30; 40 through 43; 53 through 56; 67; 84; and 95 through 97) will be unobstructed for vessel navigation at any given time and maintain through navigation of 12.5 feet vertical and 42 feet horizontal during the construction phase of the project during peak boating season. May or when lake levels make access to Sand Creek Marina accessible, through mid-October or when all motor vessels are out of the Sand Creek area.(Objective is to provide safe navigation for all mariners (Kayaks, small motor boats, large motor boats, PWC, etc.)

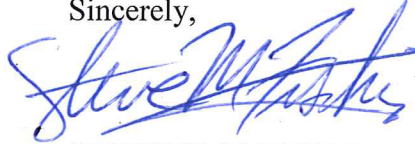
Maintain the ability for boaters to safely navigate under the 3.1 Bridge (Sand Creek)

1. The entire navigation area of the bridge location will be clear of the temporary bridge during the peak boating season (May through October). By May 1st of any given year, the temporary bridge shall be partially removed. Removal shall include the whole center section, spans 8, 9, and 10 along with the piles in the navigational area of the creek., Reconstruction of the removed elements may begin the following October 15th.

The unobstructed navigation channels will have the appropriate signage and navigation hazard lights to clearly mark the safe and preferred navigation spans as prescribed by the Thirteenth Coast Guard District Bridge Office.

If you have any questions about our jurisdiction determination, please call me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



STEVEN M. FISCHER
Bridge Chief Administrator
Thirteenth Coast Guard District
By Direction