



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

24-21

October 15, 2021

Neches River Pipeline Removal Operations – Channel Closures

This is an update to MSIB 22-21 dated September 28, 2021.

Gulf Inland Contractors will be conducting pipeline removal operations on the Neches River in the vicinity of position 29° 59'27.4"N 093° 55'54.9"W, approximately 3.2 NM west of the Rainbow Bridge and immediately upstream of the Indorama dock/Fina upper anchorage. This operation, in preparation for the channel deepening project, involves the removal of four pipelines that cross the Neches River from the north bank to the south bank.

The first channel closure is estimated to occur on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at approximately 1400 and is likely to last until after dark. The closure will occur after the last anticipated ship transits past the location. Inland traffic will be stopped once the pipeline becomes a hazard to shallow draft traffic. Once the pipeline has been removed, the channel will be reopened to traffic. Additional closures will be needed over the next several days to remove three additional pipelines.

Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Port Arthur will issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners and a VTS Advisory informing vessels of the details of the closure.

The Sabine Pilots, Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Port Arthur and the onsite contractors will schedule each successive closure to maximize traffic needs upriver of these operations. Facility dock schedulers should coordinate closely with the pilots to schedule traffic around these closures.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtspportarthur/>. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call Vessel Traffic Service Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070 (24-hours).

M. A. WIKE
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Captain of the Port