



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

22-21

September 28, 2021

Neches River Pipeline Removal Operations – Channel Closures

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.

Pipeline excavation outside the channel limits is expected to have minimal impacts on commercial navigation. However, removal of each pipeline from the channel limits is expected to restrict use of the channel for up to 8-hours. Once excavation and equipment preparation activities are complete, the channel will be closed to allow removal of a pipeline. Once the pipeline is removed, the channel will be reopened to navigation. This sequence will continue until each of the four pipelines have been removed.

Preparation operations will begin on October 1, 2021 with **pipeline removal and channel closures likely to occur between approximately October 7th and 13th**. Precise times of channel closures will vary based on traffic needs.

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.

The Coast Guard will transmit a broadcast notice to mariners (BNM) at least 6 hours in advance of known closures to advise local and transiting traffic. VTS Port Arthur will issue traffic advisories at least 6-hours in advance to participating traffic.

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/vtsporthur/>. 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