



Marine Safety Information Bulletin 17-23 April 30, 2023

Channel Restriction – Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Pipeline Leak Response Operations

A pipeline rupture occurred under the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at Mile Marker (MM) 260 WHL, approximately 5 miles east of Orange, TX. Initial pollution response operations have been ongoing with modest vessel traffic measures implemented to minimize effects to these operations. A pipeline repair plan has been received that will involve the staging of three spud barges and a towboat as well as shoreside equipment. Staged barges are expected to extend approximately 110-feet from the north bank and, therefore, into the GIWW channel. In addition, divers will be needed to excavate and isolate the rupture.

In order to ensure safe pipeline repair operations and to facilitate the safe transit of vessel traffic, the Coast Guard will implement traffic control measures.

- A. Effective at approximately **12 Noon CDT, Monday, May 1, 2023** spud barges will be on scene at MM 260, in approximate position 30°03'31"N 093°37'22" W. The following restrictions and requirements apply:
1. All commercial traffic is required to submit Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Port Arthur (*Port Arthur Traffic*) Sailing Plan and Final Reports (check in/out) on VHF Channel 65A **at GIWW Mile Marker 258 WHL** instead of the normal MM 260 location.
 2. Tows passing the excavation and repair site will be limited to a maximum 70-foot beam.
 3. No meeting or overtaking of vessels is permitted within 1/4 mile of the barges.
 4. Tows must pass the operation at minimum safe speed and minimum wake.
- B. Effective at **8 AM CDT, Tuesday, May 2, 2023** the following additional restrictions will be implemented:
1. No vessel traffic will be permitted to pass the site location during daylight hours.

Once response and repair operations are underway, the USCG will reassess the traffic control measures noted in this MSIB and determine if they may be eased. Any modifications to the current restrictions will be communicated through Broadcast Notice to Mariners, VTS Port Arthur Advisory and updates to this MSIB.

2. Vessel traffic will be permitted to pass during evening hours with all of the traffic control measures in paragraph A remaining in place.

Response and repair operations are expected to continue for a minimum of 1 week. Concerned vessel traffic may contact VTS Port Arthur on VHF channels 65A or 13 or at (409) 719-5070.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS Port Arthur website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtsporthur/>. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact VTS Port Arthur by phone (409) 719-5070 or email vtspa-sup@uscg.mil.

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**M. A. Wike
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port**