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TITLE 33--NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS

CHAPTER 9--PROTECTION OF NAVIGABLE WATERS AND OF HARBOR AND RIVER  
IMPROVEMENTS GENERALLY

SUBCHAPTER I--IN GENERAL

Sec. 401. Construction of bridges, causeways, dams or dikes  
generally; exemptions

It shall not be lawful to construct or commence the construction of any bridge, causeway, dam, or dike over or in any port, roadstead, haven, harbor, canal, navigable river, or other navigable water of the United States until the consent of Congress to the building of such structures shall have been obtained and until the plans for (1) the bridge or causeway shall have been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of Transportation, or (2) the dam or dike shall have been submitted to and approved by the Chief of Engineers and Secretary of the Army. However, such structures may be built under authority of the legislature of a State across rivers and other waterways the navigable portions of which lie wholly within the limits of a single State, provided the location and plans thereof are submitted to and approved by the Secretary of Transportation or by the Chief of Engineers and Secretary of the Army before construction is commenced. When plans for any bridge or other structure have been approved by the Secretary of Transportation or by the Chief of Engineers and Secretary of the Army, it shall not be lawful to deviate from such plans either before or after completion of the structure unless modification of said plans has previously been submitted to and received the approval of the Secretary of Transportation or the Chief of Engineers and the Secretary of the Army. The approval required by this section of the location and plans or any modification of plans of any bridge or causeway does not apply to any bridge or causeway over waters that are not subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and that are not used and are not susceptible to use in their natural condition or by reasonable improvement as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

(Mar. 3, 1899, ch. 425, Sec. 9, 30 Stat. 1151; Pub. L. 97-322, title I, Sec. 107(b), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1582; Pub. L. 97-449, Sec. 2(f), Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2440.)

Codification

Section is from act Mar. 3, 1899, popularly known as the ``Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899'', and together with section 403 of this title superseded act Sept. 19, 1890, ch. 907, Sec. 7, 26 Stat. 454, as amended by act July 13, 1892, ch. 158, Sec. 3, 27 Stat. 88, which prohibited the erection of obstructions to navigation, and prohibited the erection of bridges over navigable waters under State legislation before the approval of the plans by the Secretary of War, and prohibited the alteration of channels unless authorized by that Secretary.

## Amendments

1983--Pub. L. 97-449 amended section generally to reflect transfer of certain functions, powers, and duties of Secretary of the Army under this section to Secretary of Transportation. See Transfer of Functions note below.

1982--Pub. L. 97-322 inserted sentence at end relating to exemption.

## Transfer of Functions

Enforcement functions of Secretary or other official in Department of Transportation related to compliance with permits for bridges across navigable waters issued under this section with respect to pre-construction, construction, and initial operation of transportation system for Canadian and Alaskan natural gas were transferred to the Federal Inspector, Office of Federal Inspector for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, until the first anniversary of date of initial operation of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, see Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1979, Secs. 102(c), 203(a), 44 F.R. 33663, 33666, 93 Stat. 1373, 1376, effective July 1, 1979, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. Office of Federal Inspector for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System abolished and functions and authority vested in Inspector transferred to Secretary of Energy by section 3012(b) of Pub. L. 102-486, set out as an Abolition of Office of Federal Inspector note under section 719e of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. Functions and authority vested in Secretary of Energy subsequently transferred to Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects by section 720d(f) of Title 15.

Functions, powers, and duties of Secretary of the Army [formerly War] and other offices and officers of Department of the Army [formerly War] under this section to extent that they relate generally to location and clearances of bridges and causeways in navigable waters of United States transferred to and vested in Secretary of Transportation by Pub. L. 89-670, Sec. 6(g)(6)(A), Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 941. Pub. L. 97-449 amended this section to reflect transfer made by section 6(g)(6)(A) of Pub. L. 89-670, and repealed section 6(g)(6)(A).