

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	Docket Number: 2024-0281
vs.	)	
	)	Enforcement Activity Number: 7911470
JAMES NEIL RYERSE,	)	
Respondent.	)	

**ORDER GRANTING COAST GUARD'S MOTION FOR WITHDRAWAL**

**Issued:** July 19, 2024

**By Order of Chief Administrative Law Judge:** Hon. Walter J. Brudzinski

**Appearances:**

**For the Coast Guard**

Jason U. Bartholomew  
USCG Sector Northern Great Lakes

**For the Respondent**

James Neil Ryerse, *Pro Se*

**ORDER GRANTING COAST GUARD’S MOTION FOR WITHDRAWAL**

The United States Coast Guard Sector Northern Great Lakes (Coast Guard) initiated this administrative proceeding by issuing a Complaint on June 13, 2024, seeking to revoke James Neil Ryerse’s (Respondent) Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) for use of, or addiction to the use of dangerous drugs in violation of 46 U.S.C. § 7704(b) and 46 C.F.R. § 5.35. Specifically, the Coast Guard alleges Respondent took a required random drug test pursuant to 46 C.F.R. Part 16 on April 8, 2024, in which his urine specimen tested positive for marijuana metabolites (THCA).

Respondent filed an answer to the Complaint, dated June 27, 2024, admitting to all jurisdictional and factual allegations, along with a Voluntary Surrender Agreement in accordance with 46 C.F.R. § 5.203, and a Lost Credential Affidavit. Therefore, on July 18, 2024, the Coast Guard filed a Motion for Withdrawal (Motion), requesting to withdraw this administrative proceeding from the Administrative Law Judge Docket (ALJ) and that this matter be dismissed. *See* 33 C.F.R. § 20.311.

Pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 20.311(c), an administrative proceeding may not end in withdrawal “unless approved by an ALJ upon such terms as she or he deems proper.” Dismissal “resides within the discretion of the ALJ.” 33 C.F.R. § 20.311(e). Upon consideration of the record, I hereby GRANT the Coast Guard’s Motion for Withdrawal.

WHEREFORE, this administrative proceeding is **DISMISSED** without prejudice, that is, the Coast Guard may file a new Complaint in this matter. Further, this matter is **WITHDRAWN** from the ALJ Docket.

**SO ORDERED.**

Done and dated July 19, 2024  
New York, NY



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HON. WALTER J. BRUDZINSKI  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD