



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Office of Railroad, Pipeline, and Hazardous Materials Investigations
Washington, D.C. 20594

Track and Engineering Factual Addendum

– Federal Railroad Administration- Post Accident Inspections

Report Date: January 03, 2018

ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Graettinger, IA
TRAIN: Unit Ethanol, UEGKOT-09
OPERATOR: Union Pacific
DATE: March 10, 2017
TIME: 12:50 a.m. CST
NTSB #: DCA17MR007

SYNOPSIS OF THE ACCIDENT

For a summary of the accident, refer to the *Accident Summary* within this docket.

Track & Engineering Group Members

Joe Gordon
Railroad Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

Mr. Tom Brown
Railroad Safety Inspector (Track)
Federal Railroad Administration—Region 6

Mr. Tim Sandusky
Rail Safety Investigator
Iowa Department of Transportation

Mr. James “Butch” Moeller
General Director of Maintenance of Way- Northern Region
Union Pacific Railroad

Mr. Roy Morrison
Director of Safety
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division

Prepared by Joe Gordon- NTSB Track and Engineering Group Chairman

FRA Post Accident Inspection

Investigators reviewed Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) track inspection reports from inspections conducted on the Union Pacific (UP) Estherville Subdivision in May of 2017. Initially, investigators reviewed five reports, these reports noted 58 defective track conditions, including 40 locations of defective crossties, and 5 locations with rail fasteners not maintaining gage. These inspections were found to include all main track between milepost (MP) 78.4 and MP 0.0; with the only exclusion being between MP 59.0 and MP 48.59. Upon further review, NTSB investigators found two additional inspection reports from the May 2017 inspections. The additional reports were originally overlooked because of duplicate report numbers. Investigator determined that with the inclusion of these inspection reports, all the main track from MP 78.4 to MP 0.0 was inspected. Investigators noted that during the May 2017 inspections, FRA inspectors noted 78 defective track conditions. Of these 78 defective conditions, 51 locations with defective crossties and 5 locations with rail fasteners not maintaining track gage were reported. The reports included no recommendations for civil penalty.

Compiled by: _____
Joe Gordon, NTSB
Track and Engineering Group Chairman

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List of Exhibits

1. FRA inspection reports No. 49 (dated 05/22/2017), and No. 50 (dated 05/23/2017).