Bly, Sheila <sheila.bly@dnr.iowa.gov>

RE: UP Eagle Grove/Citizen Report

1 message

Water Works <waterworks@eaglegrove.gov> Tue, Jul 7, 2026 at 12:37 PM
To: "Bly, Sheila" <sheila.bly@dnr.iowa.gov>

Sheila,

We are aware of the issue with this homeowner; the last 3 times Union Pacific has sent water I let this homeowner know that they are discharging.

I do this because he has installed a gate valve on his sewer to prevent backups. It has become a hassle as I am the messenger between the parties. As he has stated, he is the only one on the block that is affected by the discharge. This morning Robert (Street Superintendent) went up with the cutter to make sure there were no roots, or other blockages. I have not heard from him yet, but when I do I will let you know what he found.

Thanks,

Matt Sogard
Wastewater Superintendent
City of Eagle Grove
121 N. Commercial
PO Box 165
Eagle Grove, Iowa 50533
On Call (515) 851-9352
Cell: (515) 297-2651
waterworks@eaglegrove.gov

From: Bly, Sheila <sheila.bly@dnr.iowa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 12:19 PM
To: Water Works <waterworks@eaglegrove.gov>
Subject: Fwd: UP Eagle Grove/Citizen Report

Matt,

See the email below. After a quick internal discussion, we decided to forward this issue to you since he declined to lodge a formal complaint. The City of Eagle Grove needs to strictly monitor the UP discharge to ensure that it does not cause basement backups. Perhaps in addition to receiving approval from the City for the discharge, the City may also wish to establish some rate limitations above and beyond the 25,000 gpd. Forcing them to lower the rate will hopefully prevent sewer surcharging and the resulting basement backups.

Also note that this was likely a reportable basement backup since the issue stems from the system's inadequate sizing to handle the water quantity, but we did not receive a bypass notification for this incident.

When you have a moment to discuss this issue, please give me a call. If other City personnel need to be involved, let me know and I can try to set up a virtual meeting.

Thanks,

Sheila Bly
Environmental Specialist Senior
Environmental Services Division - Field Office 2
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
2300 15th St SW, Mason City, IA 50401
641-424-4073 office
641-525-0251 mobile
sheila.bly@dnr.iowa.gov
www.iowadnr.gov



---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Knoll, David** <david.knoll@dnr.iowa.gov>
Date: Wed, Jun 24, 2026 at 1:51 PM
Subject: UP Eagle Grove/Citizen Report
To: Jacob Donaghy <jacob.donaghy@dnr.iowa.gov>, Sheila Bly <sheila.bly@dnr.iowa.gov>, Berg, Carl <carl.berg@dnr.iowa.gov>, Jeremy Klatt <jeremy.klatt@dnr.iowa.gov>

FYI - While in Eagle Grove near Lincoln Ave and NW 6th Street, on June 17th, I was approached by a neighboring homeowner. The homeowner asked if I was there in regard to wastewater backup issues. I explained I was not and he explained he had wastewater backup into his basement that day due to the railroad discharging their holding tank water. He stated this is a recurring issue, but he seems to be the only one affected. I asked if there were any diesel odors associated with the wastewater and he stated there was not, and had not been for quite some time. I inquired if he would like to file a complaint and/or provide his contact information and he declined. I told him I would pass the information to FO2 wastewater staff so they were aware.

David Knoll
Environmental Specialist Senior
Environmental Services Division
Department of Natural Resources
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