

Canadian National Railway : Probes Minor Derailment in Eastern Canada

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By Ben Dummett

Canadian National Railway Co., Canada's biggest railroad operator, confirmed Saturday it is investigating a train derailment in which six railcars fell off a track in eastern Canada, but remained upright.

The derailment happened Friday afternoon outside of Grand Falls, a small town in New Brunswick, on a side track off the main line, Canadian National spokesman Jim Feeny said in a phone interview. The cars, which were traveling about six miles an hour when their wheels left the track, weren't carrying any dangerous goods and no one was injured, he said.

It was a "very minor accident," Mr. Feeny said. After the accident, the Montreal-based railroad operator put the cars back on the track and normal operations resumed Saturday morning. The company still is trying to figure out the cause of the derailment.

The accident comes as the safety record of North America's railroad operators has attracted increasing regulatory scrutiny following much more serious derailments over the last year in New Brunswick, Quebec and Virginia of railcars carrying oil that exploded as a result of the accidents. The July 2013 train derailment in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec killed dozens of people and devastated the town

Of the derailed cars involved in Friday's accident, two were carrying automobiles, two had fertilizer cargo, one had railway ties and one was empty, Canadian National's Mr. Feeny said.