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Contact:

Glenn Olcerst, [glennolcerst@gmail.com](mailto:glennolcerst@gmail.com), 412-999-2539

Debra Smit, [dsmit@breatheproject.org](mailto:dsmit@breatheproject.org), 412-760-7677

### **East End and Manchester Residents to Learn More About Potential Defective Rail Problems on Norfolk Southern Lines**

Residents of communities in Pittsburgh's East End and Manchester will attend community events in those neighborhoods this week to learn more about Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh's (RP3's) concerns surrounding safety risks to residents along Norfolk Southern's rail lines as well as pollution exposure risks.

Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh (RP3) has issued a letter to the Public Utility Commission (attached) alerting the PUC to a potential defective rail tie safety issue, requesting a freeze of funding while a comprehensive investigation is conducted. RP3 has also filed a Motion to Consolidate all pending Vertical Clearance Applications.

In support, the City of Pittsburgh has filed a Protest with the PUC objecting to Norfolk Southern transferring maintenance of and responsibilities for the West North Avenue bridge to the City. The City of Pittsburgh is also asking "Norfolk Southern to provide alternative plans to protect North Side neighborhoods and residents, the historic nature of the area, pedestrian safety, air quality and other factors, and for the railroad to be more responsive to City requests on the matter."

RP3, a coalition of Pittsburgh residents addressing the risk and impact of expanded rail transport through the city, maintains that the use of \$20M in taxpayer funding is inappropriate based on a review of applicable deeds/ordinances, history and practice.

"Residents living and working within the one-mile blast zone of the proposed modified rail route through the city deserve to enjoy peace of mind, urban health and safety," says Glenn Olcerst, of RP3. "Norfolk Southern's plan to use taxpayer money to route higher center of gravity less stable double-stack trains adjacent to volatile oil trains —over a twisting rail line through the densely-occupied city to increase its profits, is a non-starter."

#### **The two public meetings will be held (media are invited to attend):**

Monday, Feb. 25, 2019, 6:30-8 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Edgewood  
120 E. Swissvale Ave., Pittsburgh 15218

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, 7 to 9 p.m.  
Manchester Citizens Corp.  
1319 Allegheny Ave., Pittsburgh, 15233

**ABOUT RP3:** *Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh (RP3) is a group of Pittsburgh residents committed to addressing the risk and impacts that expanding rail transport – and related oil/petrochemical facilities – have on nearby communities, especially public health, safety, air and water quality.*

Debra Smit, Communications Manager