



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### "Blue Vinyl" Screening and Speakers Raise Questions Around the Transportation of Hazardous Materials By Rail through Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, Pa. – Award-winning filmmaker Judith Helfand and rail safety activists will come together at the Carnegie Museum of Art this weekend for a film screening and discussion of the dangers of transporting hazardous materials by rail through communities and cities.

"Blue Vinyl" (2002), which won Emmy and Sundance Festival awards, will screen on May 19, 2024, at the Carnegie Museum of Art at 2 p.m. The film will be followed by a discussion of the East Palestine train derailment and the burning of vinyl chloride, which contaminated the East Palestine community and surrounding area causing health harm to residents. More information on the screening may be found [here](#).

Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania residents are encouraged to attend and learn more about how to prevent vinyl chloride and hazardous disasters like this from happening again.

"Transporting hazardous waste through communities and along major waterways has always been a threat to human and environmental health," said Heather Hulton VanTassel, executive director of Three Rivers Waterkeeper. "With failing and aging infrastructure, a continual shift toward increasing profit over safety and an acceptance of harm as a price willing to be paid, the next disaster is not an if but a when."

After the film, a panel discussion with the filmmaker and activists will open to questions from the audience. The panel includes:

Judith Helfand, Director/ Producer, "Blue Vinyl"

Chris Albright, impacted East Palestine Resident & Justice For East Palestine Residents & Workers  
Heather Hulton VanTassel, Executive Director, Three Rivers Waterkeeper  
Leslie Clague, Railroad Advocate, Polish Hill Environmental Justice

## Plot Summary

Turned off by her parents' decision to put vinyl siding on their small Long Island house, director Judith Helfand takes viewers on her 5-year adventure across the United States and to Europe to get the back story on vinyl. The film is suitable for all ages. [Watch the Trailer](#)

We thank our partners in SWPA who came together to make this screening happen.

