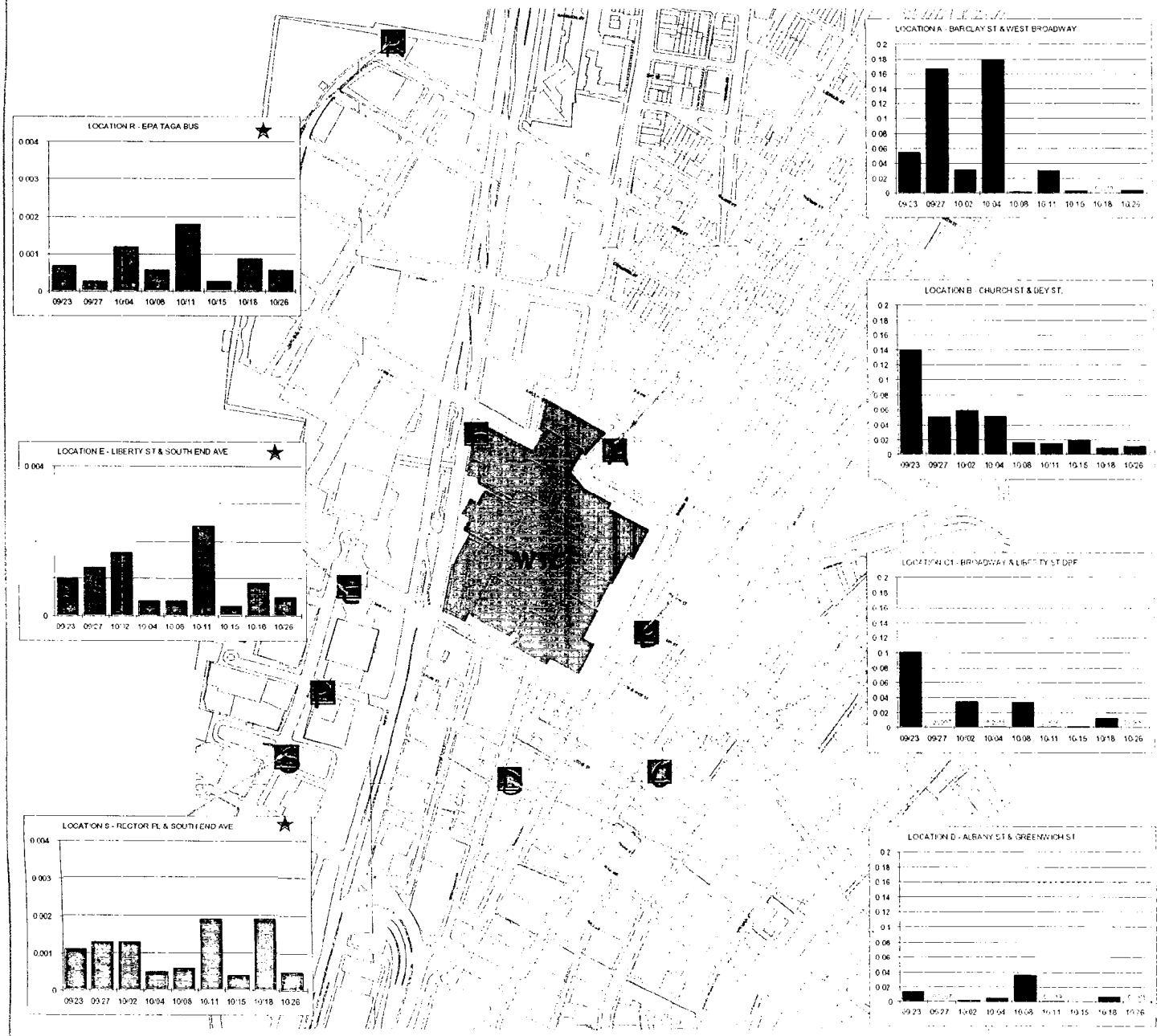
EPA Dioxin Air Sample Results
World Trade Center Work Zone
9/23/01 - 10/26/01



Dioxin refers to a group of chemicals created when many types of materials burn. It is also created during some types of manufacturing and incineration. Dioxin does not break down easily, remains in the environment and can be distributed by wind and water. It is found in a wide variety of places. People are exposed to dioxin primarily by eating meat, dairy and fish. The burning of building and office debris at the World Trade Center is causing some emissions of dioxin. Most of the air samples taken in areas surrounding the work zone and analyzed for dioxin have been below EPA's screening level, which is set to protect against significantly increased risks of cancer and other adverse health effects. The screening level is based on an assumption of continuous exposure for a year to an average concentration of 0.16 nanograms per cubic meter (ng/m3). The unit ng/m3 is the mass of dioxin/furan compounds in nanograms (a billionth of a gram) per cubic meter of air. Because the vast majority of individual as well as the average measured dioxin levels have been lower than the screening level, EPA does not expect an increased risk of health problems as a result of dioxin being emitted from the World Trade Center site.

★ Due to the extremely low levels of Dioxins found at these monitoring stations, bar charts depicted in green have a range of 0.00 to 0.004 ng/m3. This range is well below EPA's screening level of 0.16 ng/m3. EPA does not expect any increased risk of health problems due to these low levels.

Legend
- Fixed Air Sampling Stations
- Buildings
- Open Space
- Roads
- World Trade Center

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US EPA Region 2
World Trade Center Response
Map created on 11/26/01