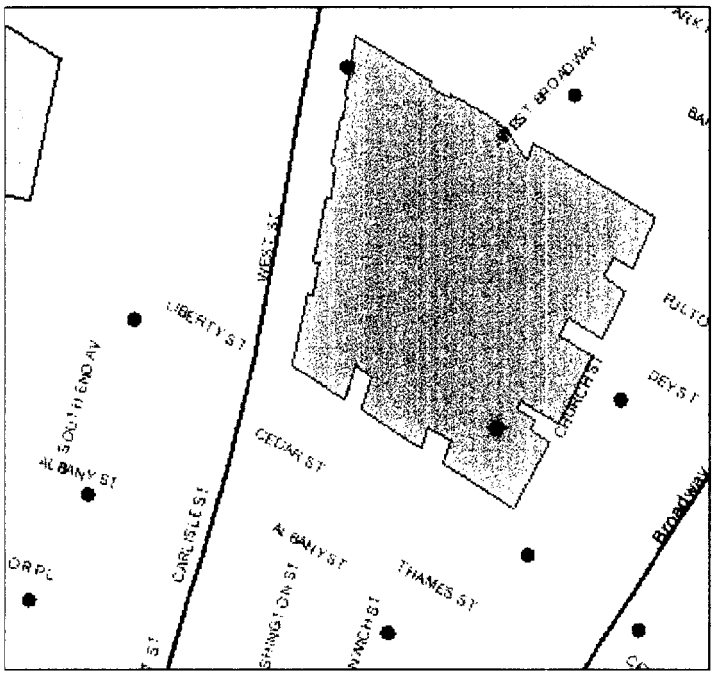
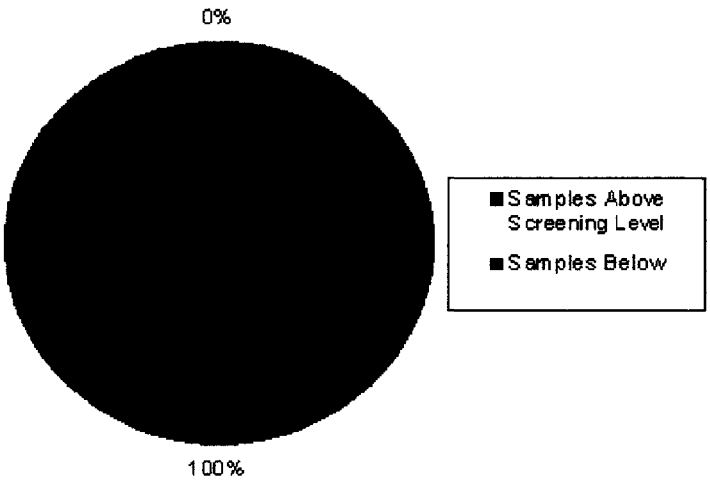
PCB Air Monitoring Data Summary for Lower Manhattan WTC Sampling

Totals (for sampling through 01/15/02, in ng/m3)	
Total Samples - All Sites	261
Samples Above Screening Level	0
% Above	0.00%
Samples Below	261
Maximum Value (10/02/01):	153
Minumum Value:	ND
Screening Level*:	730
Average All	3.79



Polychlorinated biphenyls, or "PCBs", have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health problems. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures, electrical devices containing PCB capacitors, and old hydraulic oils.



To date, all measurements of airborne PCBs at sites surrounding the WTC work zone have been below EPA's screening level. The EPA screening level is set well below exposure levels shown to cause cancer in animals, as well as those associated with any other health effects. The screening level is based on continuous exposure for a year to an average concentration of 730 nanograms per cubic meter.** Because measured PCB levels to date have been significantly lower, we do not expect increased risks of health problems as a result of PCBs from the WTC site.

The EPA screening level is set well below exposure levels shown to cause cancer in animals, as well as those associated with any other health effects.

**The unit is ng/m3 or the mass of PCBs in nanograms (a billionth of a gram) in a cubic meter of air.