

**RCW 78.56.160 Moratorium on use of heap leach extraction process**  
**—Joint review by department of ecology and department of natural**  
**resources—Permanent prohibition of in situ extraction.** (1) Until  
June 30, 1996, there shall be a moratorium on metals mining and  
milling operations using the heap leach extraction process. The  
department of natural resources and the department of ecology shall  
jointly review the existing laws and regulations pertaining to the  
heap leach extraction process for their adequacy in safeguarding the  
environment.

(2) Metals mining using the process of in situ extraction is  
permanently prohibited in the state of Washington. [1998 c 245 § 161;  
1994 c 232 § 16.]