RCW 78.44.131  Reclamation specifics—Basic objective—
Modifications for metals mining and milling operations—Timeline. The
need for, and the practicability of, reclamation shall control the
type and degree of reclamation in any specific instance. However, the
basic objective of reclamation is to reestablish on a continuing basis
the vegetative cover, slope stability, water conditions, and safety
conditions suitable to the proposed subsequent use consistent with
local land use plans for the surface mine site.

Each permit holder shall comply with the minimum reclamation
standards in effect on the date the permit was issued and any
additional reclamation standards set forth in the approved reclamation
plan. The department may modify, on a site specific basis, the minimum
reclamation standards for metals mining and milling operations
regulated under chapter 232, Laws of 1994 in order to achieve the
reclamation and closure objectives of that chapter. The basic
objective of reclamation for these operations is the reestablishment
on a continuing basis of vegetative cover, slope stability, water
conditions, and safety conditions.

Reclamation activities, particularly those relating to control of
erosion and mitigation of impacts of mining to adjacent areas, shall,
to the extent feasible, be conducted simultaneously with surface
mining, and in any case shall be initiated at the earliest possible
time after completion of surface mining on any segment of the permit
area.

All reclamation activities shall be completed not more than two
years after completion or abandonment of surface mining on each
segment of the area for which a reclamation permit is in force.

The department may by contract delegate enforcement of provisions
of reclamation plans to counties, cities, and towns. A county, city,
or town performing enforcement functions may not impose any additional
fees on permit holders. [1994 c 232 § 24; 1993 c 518 § 20.]

Effective date—1994 c 232 §§ 1-5, 9-17, and 23-31: See RCW
78.56.901.

Captions—Severability—Effective date—1993 c 518: See notes
following RCW 78.44.010.