

**RCW 79.14.570 Re-lease—Procedure—Preference rights.** If at the expiration of any lease for the mining and extraction of coal or any renewal thereof the lessee desires to re-lease the lands covered thereby, the lessee may make application to the department for a re-lease. Such application shall be in writing and under oath, setting forth the extent, character, and value of all improvements, development work, and structures existing upon the land. The department may on the filing of such application cause the lands to be inspected, and if the department deems it for the best interests of the state to re-lease said lands, it shall fix the royalties for the ensuing term in accordance with the foregoing provisions relating to original leases, and issue to the applicant a renewal lease for a further term; such application for a release when received from the lessee, or successor of any lessee, who has in good faith developed and improved the property in a substantial manner during the original lease to be given preference on equal terms against the application of any new applicant. [2003 c 334 § 424; 1927 c 255 § 173; RRS § 7797-173. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 11. Formerly RCW 79.01.692, 78.24.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.