



Heap Leach Facility Design - Comparison of Four Case Histories in the South Western United States

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a comparison of heap leach facility designs for four precious-metal mining projects in the southwestern United States. The four projects are of small to medium size relative to other operating mines in the United States. The projects are in varying stages of development, ranging from being permitted to the final stages of permitting. The differences and similarities in the heap leach facility designs are compared with respect to site conditions, operating conditions, regulatory requirements, and permitting schedule. This comparison provides a summary of the state-of-practice for heap leach facility design in the southwestern United States and identifies current issues in project development, process material containment, and ground and surface water protection.

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