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For Immediate Release: October 29, 1959
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Award of a $298,469.48 contract for construction of additional irrigation works on the Hogback Unit of the Navajo Indian reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

Two major items are included in the contract: (1) 5,932 linear feet of main canal with a capacity of 130 cubic feet per second, and (2) 3,600 linear feet of 60 inch diameter steel pipe across Malpais Arroyo.

The construction work on the main canal will provide for irrigation of an additional 5,745 acres. This amount, added to the present irrigated acreage, will bring the project up to its planned total of 15,000 acres. The present contract, however, provides for no additional land development.

When completed, the Hogback Unit will give approximately 500 Navajo families an opportunity to make a living from irrigation farming.

The successful bidder was Daniels Construction Company of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Fourteen higher bids were received.