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For Immediate Release: April 20, 1961
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Award of a $69,451.06 contract for construction of additional irrigation works that will bring water to about 750 acres now unirrigated on the Pine River Project of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in Colorado was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract provides chiefly for the construction of approximately 4.5 miles of ditch and appurtenant structures with a capacity of approximately 15 cubic feet per second. By opening up irrigation farming on the additional acreage, the new construction will give eight Indian families located in the area better opportunities than they have previously enjoyed to make an adequate living.

McGechie Construction Company of Cortez, Colorado, was the successful bidder for the contract. Five higher bids, ranging from $72,669.31 to $101,549.90, were received.