



Valier, MT Est. 1909

THE WATER COMPANY

Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Co.

June 13, 2025

RE: 2025 Irrigation Season Date Changes

Dear Shareholder,

Due to a severe lack of precipitation and forecasted runoff, I regret to announce that as of today, the 2025 Irrigation Season will only continue through August 1st with a two week fall canal run occurring Sept. 15th-30th. In other words, **we will be shutting down the canal on August 1st and turning it on again in the fall for two weeks (Sept. 15th-30th).** The NRCS forecasted runoff that we were dependent on to supply the 4" allotment has simply not materialized during the months of May and June. Extreme caution was exercised in determining the allotment this year and the probability of the region *not* meeting the forecasted quantity was 5% or less.

Our water delivery system requires a certain amount of seepage and loss for water deliveries to reach turnouts. In low allocation years, shorter run times, additional rewetting of dry canals, and inconsistency in orders add to the many factors that greatly reduce our ability to deliver water efficiently. The decision to reduce the number of days in the irrigation season is aimed at running when we are most efficient and reducing the number of least efficient days. By doing this we can conserve the losses needed to run the canal during the time of least efficiency and optimize our ability to deliver the 4 inches that have been allocated. In addition to the shortened season, a mandatory **minimum order length of 2 days** will be employed and **each order will require an "on" and "off" time.**

Thank you for your help and understanding during this difficult and unfortunate situation. We believe this is the best option at this time and hope that this notice provides ample time for you to plan your water use accordingly. Please don't forget to save a portion of your allocation for filling your stockwater reservoirs during the fall.

For further explanation about the 2025 water supply visit www.ponderacanalcompany.com.

Sincerely,

Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Co.
Board of Directors & Management