

Native American tribes continue protest at Scottish Power AGM

Native Americans have staged a colorful protest at Scottish Power's AGM in Edinburgh. Four tribes want the company to remove dams from a river they depend on for fish.

The tribesmen and women will return to the US tomorrow but feel their trip to Scotland has been extremely worthwhile.

These people mean to be heard. There can't have been too many protests quite like this in Scotland before.

The four tribes these Native Americans represent live along the Klamath River in Oregon and California. They believe river dams are killing the salmon their economies and cultures depend on and want them removed. The dams are owned by PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of Scottish Power.

Today the Indians brought their fight to Scottish Power's AGM. Shareholders looked bemused; other protesters didn't stand a chance.

Leaf Hillman, member of the Karuk Tribe said: "We came here to send a message to Scottish Power and that message is that we will travel to the ends of the earth to accomplish our goal and bring the salmon home."

Leaf spoke during the meeting and won over an audience ignorant of his cause:

"I mean the result in there when these people brought this to the floor was quite outstanding."

"It was obvious from the support from the audience because they were given a round of applause after they had spoken. They've come a long way, not really to make a protest but to enlighten us about what is happening."

And Scottish Power and PacifiCorp say they are listening.

Judith Johanson, Chief Executive PacifiCorp said: "As we move forward in discussions with the tribes and the many other stakeholders we have to look at all solutions and dam removal is one solution we'll need to look too."

Scottish Power can't be in much doubt now as to how much this means to these passionate and spiritual people but if this protest doesn't convince them then history certainly should, because when native Americans say they are prepared to fight, they mean it.

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