ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Dr. Srini Sundhararajan

Independent Consultant
President, Grenence, LLC
Austin, Texas

Department Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty Candidate for Professor of Practice

Monday, October 12, 2015
11:00 am
236C WEB

Solving Wicked Problems in Electric Power Systems

Abstract: Wicked Problems are large scale, multi stake holder problems (social, cultural, economical) that at a minimum, a) do not have a definite formulation, b) solutions are not true/false or right/wrong but how good/bad, c) Every problem is unique, and, d) designer has no right to be wrong. Originally defined by Rittel and Webber for Urban Planning, Wicked Problems are noticed in other domains as well. This presentation is about relevance of understanding wicked problems in designing solutions for Electric Power Systems that would encompass reliability, competitive market economics, environmental impacts, renewables , customer choice and resiliency factors. This talk will discuss properties that would identify wicked problems, along with examples, from the larger Power Industry and from the professional experience of the speaker, and formulation of strategies to handle wicked problems.

Bio Sketch: Srini Sundhararajan received his BE(1986) from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirapalli, India; MS(1993) and PhD (2001)from Kansas State University, Manhattan and MBA -Executive Option (2008) from University of Texas, Austin. He has worked for English Electric (now AREVA), ABB, SIEMENS and ERCOT, in the areas of Industrial Process Automation, Grid Management, Energy Market Management and Credit risk Management. He has handled various responsibilities as Engineer, Consultant, Project Lead, Program Manager, Enterprise Architect and Analyst in the areas of design, sales/marketing, software development and financial analysis. Since 2008, he has been President of Grenence, LLC and is a Consultant in the Power Industry.