



# **NRC Change Process Development**

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# Background

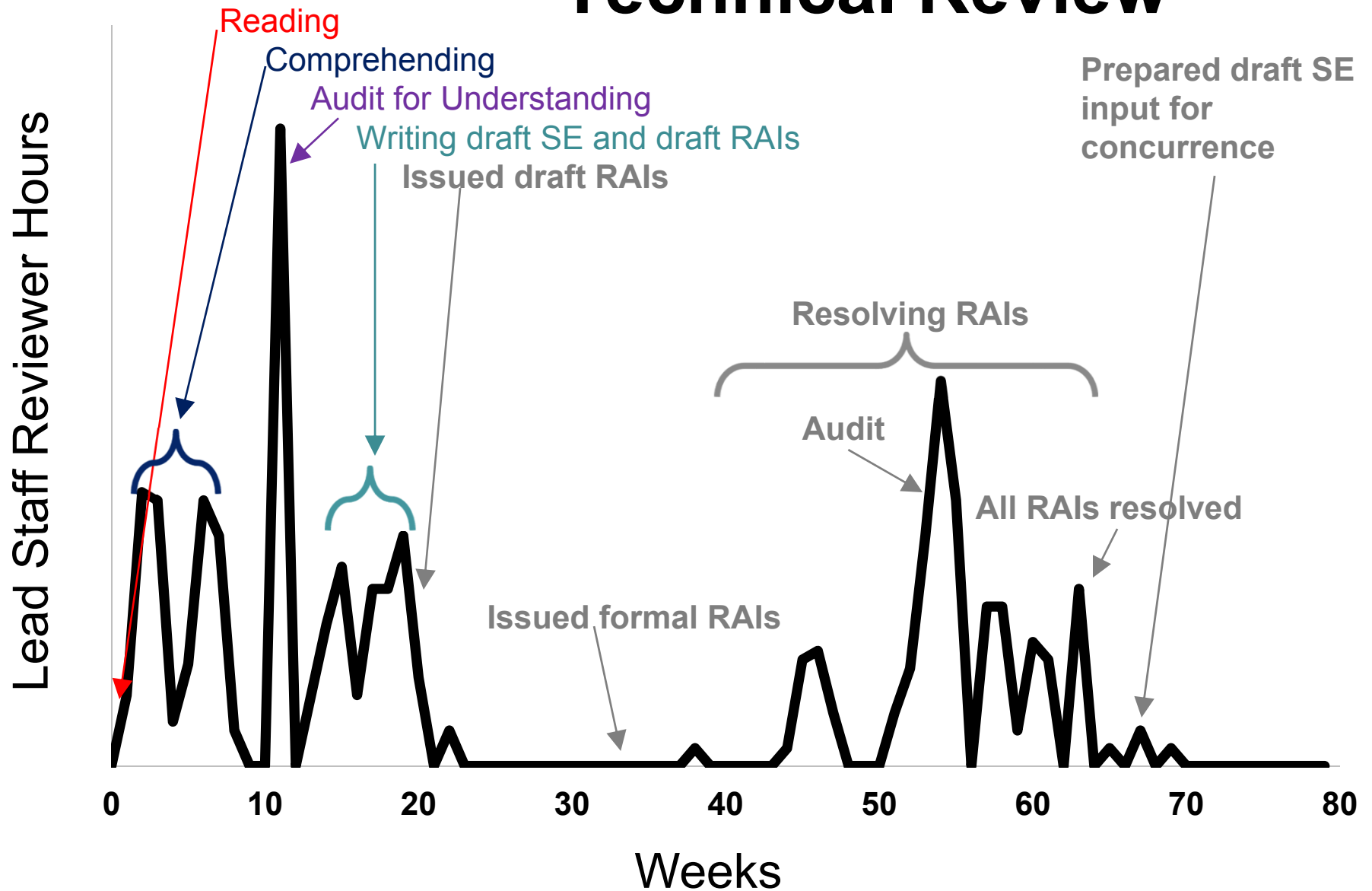
- In 2013, the NRC staff started an initiative to increase the efficiency and effectiveness on the technical review of topical reports
- In 2015, the NRC staff held a RIC session and a workshop on the potential for updates to approved codes and methods without prior review
- Both of these initiatives have resulted in valuable insights which the staff are studying in their current reviews and capturing in updated guidance



## Technical Reviewer Impressions

- Strategic Pre-Submittal meeting is useful, Pre-Submittal not so much
- Post-Submittal sit down with the authors (i.e., Audit for Understanding) is useful about 2 months **after the staff starts the review** (likely different date from when the topical is submitted)
- RAI categorization process used in three TR reviews, two LARs, and proves to be helpful in communicating the staff's concerns and could expand to other reviews.

# Anatomy of a Typical Technical Review





# Update On Technical Review Process Improvements

- Ideally, start with a guiding technical review document...
  - not practical as many topical reports are in house with their own “mini-update processes”
- Current thinking looking *forward*: if those “mini-updated processes” are acceptable, approve them and then create a generic document later which points to those processes
  - Processes need to be well defined and publically available
- Current thinking looking **backward**: review previous update processes and issue generic NRC correspondence describing them



# Next Steps

- Discussing technical updates to be linked to the Topical Report process (LIC-500)
  - Piloting ideas in different technical reviews to determine their applicability
  - Discussing ideas with OGC, NRO, and other internal stakeholders to ensure consistency
  - Implementing many of these ideas in current technical reviews.
- Planning on approving well defined, publicly available update processes in current technical review process
  - Have tasked NRC technical staff with generating summaries of previously approved update processes for generic implementation