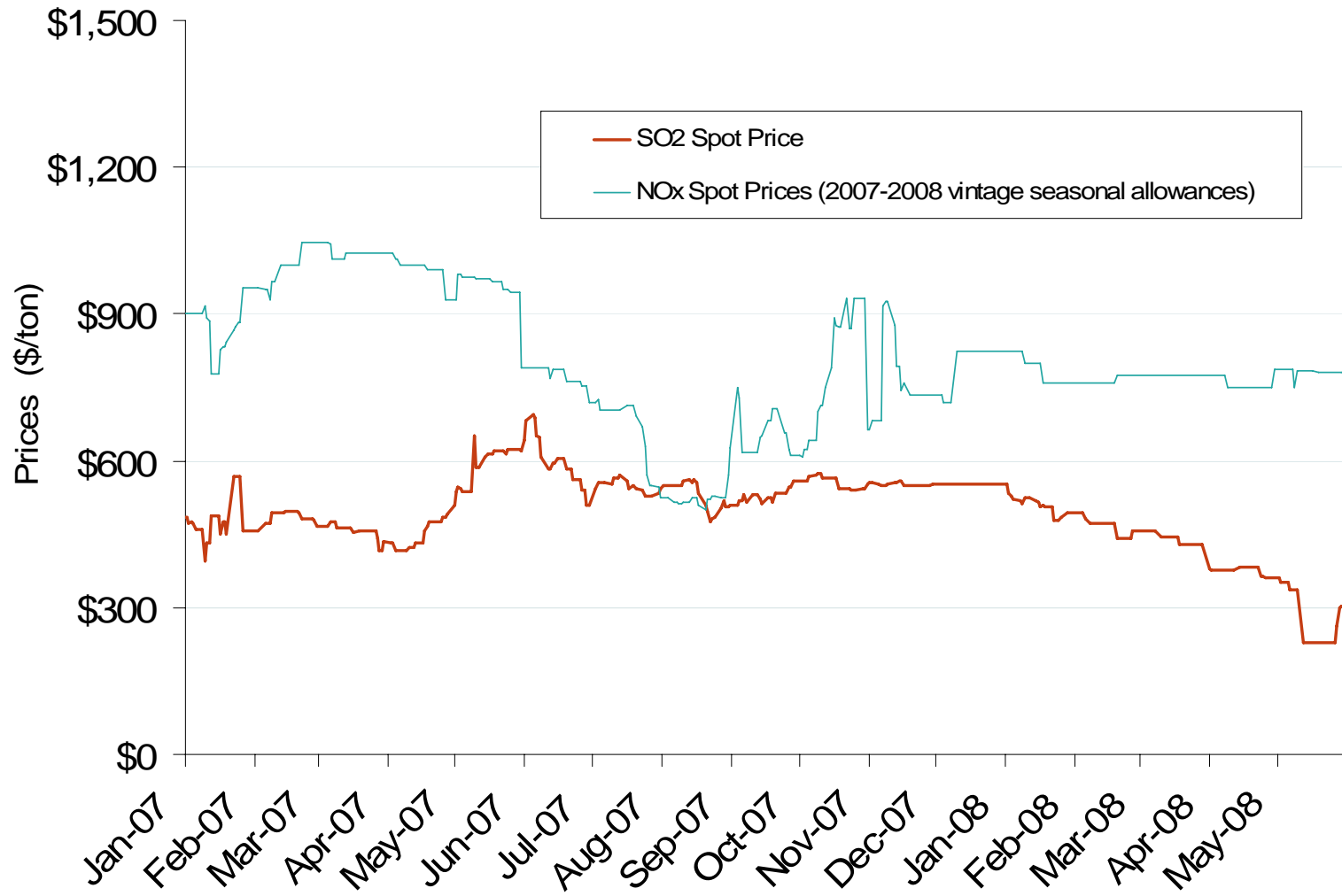


## SO<sub>2</sub> Allowance Spot Prices and NOx Seasonal Allowance Spot Prices



Source: Derived from Cantor Fitzgerald data.

See notes on following pages.

## SO<sub>2</sub>

SO<sub>2</sub> spot prices opened the February month trading at \$473/ton but soon dropped to \$425/ton before finally settling at \$461/ton. According to Evolution Markets, compliance buyers did not participate in this month's market activity; rather much of the selling was by financial players in preparation for the upcoming EPA auction to be held on March 25, 2008.

Preliminary EPA data suggests that 2007 SO<sub>2</sub> emissions once again fell below the 9.5 mt cap. Total SO<sub>2</sub> tons emitted in 2007 was 8.95 mt, down 4.7% from 2006. The surplus of leftover allowances carried forward from previous years is now 6.85 million allowances which will be banked for future use. This surplus added to the annual 9.5 million 2008 allocation results in a total of 16.39 million allowances that are likely to be available for compliance in 2008.

Emissions are declining despite an increase in power consumption. 2007 SO<sub>2</sub> emissions fell below cap despite a slight increase in coal consumption, most notably in the electric power sector. However, this increase in coal consumption coupled with lower SO<sub>2</sub> emissions may be explained by an increase in production of lower-sulfur coal. According to the EIA, coal production is up 2.4% year-to-date in Wyoming, which produces low-sulfur Powder River Basin coal. Alternatively, production has been falling in the top three coal producing states that make up higher-sulfur Appalachian coal. When combined, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia make up 1/3 of total US coal production.

The growing surplus of banked allowances also contributes to the decline in emissions. Finally, there has been a notable increase in investment in flue gas desulfurization retrofits (FGD) at coal-fired power plants. According to CERA, 2007 saw a 64% increase in FGD retrofits per GW compared with 2006. In 2006, 3.9 GW of FGD retrofits were brought on-line compared with the 10.9 GW of retrofits expected at the end of 2007

## NO<sub>x</sub>

The NO<sub>x</sub> SIP Call current vintage (2008) showed little activity in February in large part because February is a shoulder month to the seasonal market. The compliance season begins May 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Current vintage spot prices opened the February month trading at \$788/ton before settling the month at \$825/ton. Throughout the month of February, current vintage prices were stable. Monthly volume was down at approximately 2,000 tons compared with 5,000 tons last February. Generally, regulatory and economic factors facing the utility's business are the driving forces behind the compliance buyer's level of engagement in the market. Typically, activity in this market heightens as the compliance season comes closer.

EPA data shows 2007 NO<sub>x</sub> seasonal emissions fell within the 527,501 ton/year budget despite the addition of Missouri to the NO<sub>x</sub> program in May. The final total of 506,385 of emitted NO<sub>x</sub> tons leaves 21,116 unused tons to be added to the 217,000 already banked allowances carried over from 2006. A well-supplied market and an increase in pollution control equipment coming online at coal-fired power plants in 2007 contributed to below-cap NO<sub>x</sub> emissions output for 2007. According to CERA, 5.6 GW of selective catalytic reduction (SCR) retrofits were expected to be online at coal-fired power plants in 2007 compared with the 2.4 GW of SCR retrofits in 2006. In addition, 2.1 GW of selective non-catalytic reduction retrofits (SNCR) were expected to be online in 2007 compared with 2 GW in 2006.