

## New Jersey Swim Beach

*by Bill Leonard, P.E.*

Design has been completed for the construction of a new swim beach at Coppermine Inn site on Old Mine Road NJ, and environmental permitting with the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection remains the last step before construction begins. The project will provide an accessible opportunity for protected swimming that will meet visitor demand on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. It will replace Depew Swim Beach, a few miles north of the new site, which has been closed since September 2004 due to flooding. The Depew site had several inherent problems that prevented its continued use as a swim beach: its capacity was inadequate to meet visitor demand, strong river currents created potentially hazardous swimming conditions, facilities were in poor condition, and recreation had potential natural resource impacts there.

The park is working with New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection to secure the required permits. Some delays in the permitting process have caused a slip in the planned start of construction. We hope to resolve the open issues and to award a contract late this summer, with the majority of the construction to occur during the summer of 2008 and a target opening date of Spring 2009. ■

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**Bill Leonard** is Chief of Maintenance & Construction Management.