

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
AIKEN DIVISION

Isiah James, Jr., # 96883,)	C.A. No. 1:08-2256-TLW-SVH
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
vs.)	ORDER
)	
Warden, Ridgeland Correctional Institution,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

By Order filed September 13, 2010, the undersigned accepted the Report and Recommendation (“the Report”) filed by United States Magistrate Judge Shiva V. Hodges (to whom this case had previously been assigned pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Rule 73.02(B)(2) (D.S.C.)); granted the respondent’s motion for summary judgment; and denied petitioner’s cross motion for summary judgment. Thereafter, the plaintiff filed a “motion to alter and amend Order-Rule 59(e), FRCP” (Doc. # 72). The defendant opposes this motion. (Doc. # 74).

Rule 59(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that:

Any motion to alter or amend a judgment shall be filed no later than 28 days after entry of the judgment.

Although Rule 59(e) does not itself provide a standard under which a District Court may grant a motion to alter or amend a judgment, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has recognized three grounds for amending an earlier judgment: (1) to accommodate an intervening change in controlling law; (2) to account for new evidence not available at trial; or (3) to correct a clear error of law or prevent manifest injustice. Pacific Ins. Co. v. American National Ins. Co., 148 F.3d 396 (4th Cir.

1998) *cert. denied*, 525 U.S. 1104 (1999). Thus, Rule 59(e) permits a District Court to correct its own errors, “sparing the parties and the appellate courts the burden of unnecessary appellate proceedings.” *Id.* (citing Russell v. Delco Remy Div. of Gen. Motors Corp., 51 F.3d 746, 749 (7th Cir. 1995). Rule 59(e) motions may not be used, however, to raise arguments which could have been raised prior to the issuance of the judgment, nor may they be used to argue a case under a novel legal theory that the party had the ability to address in the first instance. *Id.* Similarly, if a party relies on newly discovered evidence in its Rule 59(e) motion, the party must produce a legitimate justification for not presenting the evidence during the earlier proceeding. *Id.* (citing Small v. Hunt, 98 F.3d 789, 798 (4th Cir. 1996)). In general, reconsideration of a judgment after its entry is an extraordinary remedy which should be used sparingly. *Id.*

Based upon the undersigned’s review of the record in this case, the undersigned concludes that no legally sufficient basis exists to alter or amend this Court’s September 13, 2010 Order in this case. In particular, the plaintiff fails to: show any intervening change in controlling law; account for any new evidence; or show clear error of law or manifest injustice. Therefore, plaintiff’s “motion to alter and amend Order-Rule 59(e), FRCP” is **DENIED**. (Doc. # 72).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Terry L. Wooten
TERRY L. WOOTEN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

October 12, 2010
Florence, South Carolina