

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
WESTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

STEVEN KEITH VANDEBRAKE,

Defendant.

No. CR10-4025-MWB

**ORDER REGARDING
MAGISTRATE'S REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING DEFENDANT'S
GUILTY PLEA**

On April 26, 2010, an Information was filed against defendant Steven Keith Vandebrake, charging defendant Vandebrake with violations of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1. On May 4, 2010, defendant Vandebrake appeared before Chief United States Magistrate Judge Paul A. Zoss and entered a plea of guilty to Counts 1, 2 and 3 of the Information.¹ On this same date, Judge Zoss filed a Report and Recommendation in which he recommends that defendant's guilty plea be accepted. No objections to Judge Zoss's

¹The court notes that at the time of defendant's guilty plea hearing, he was pleading under a binding plea agreement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C). On May 26, 2010, in compliance with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(5), the court informed defendant in open court that it was rejecting the Rule 11(c)(1)(C) plea agreement, and gave defendant the opportunity to withdraw his guilty plea. Defendant declined to withdraw his guilty plea. Instead, defendant and the prosecution have now reached a plea agreement pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B). Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(3)(B), the court informed defendant that under his new plea agreement he has no right to withdraw his guilty plea if the court does not follow the recommendation or request contained in his Rule 11(c)(1)(B) plea agreement.

Report and Recommendation were filed. The court, therefore, undertakes the necessary review of Judge Zoss's recommendation to accept defendant's plea in this case.

II. ANALYSIS

The court reviews the magistrate judge's report and recommendation pursuant to the statutory standards found in 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1):

A judge of the court shall make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made. A judge of the court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge. The judge may also receive further evidence or recommit the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) (2006); *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b) (stating identical requirements); N.D. IA. L.R. 7.1 (allowing the referral of dispositive matters to a magistrate judge but not articulating any standards to review the magistrate judge's report and recommendation). While examining these statutory standards, the United States Supreme Court explained:

Any party that desires plenary consideration by the Article III judge of any issue need only ask. Moreover, while the statute does not require the judge to review an issue *de novo* if no objections are filed, it does not preclude further review by the district judge, *sua sponte* or at the request of a party, under a *de novo* or any other standard.

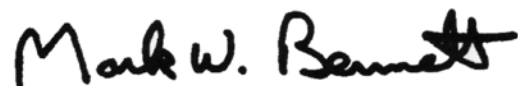
Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 154 (1985). Thus, a district court *may* review *de novo* any issue in a magistrate judge's report and recommendation at any time. *Id.* If a party files an objection to the magistrate judge's report and recommendation, however, the district court *must* "make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the report or specified

proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made.” 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). In the absence of an objection, the district court is not required “to give any more consideration to the magistrate’s report than the court considers appropriate.” *Thomas*, 474 U.S. at 150.

In this case, no objections have been filed. As a result, the court has reviewed the magistrate judge’s report and recommendation under a clearly erroneous standard of review. *See Grinder v. Gammon*, 73 F.3d 793, 795 (8th Cir. 1996) (noting when no objections are filed and the time for filing objections has expired, “[the district court judge] would only have to review the findings of the magistrate judge for clear error”); *Taylor v. Farrier*, 910 F.2d 518, 520 (8th Cir. 1990) (noting the advisory committee’s note to Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b) indicates “when no timely objection is filed the court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record”). After conducting its review, the court is not “‘left with [a] definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed,’” and finds no reason to reject or modify the magistrate judge’s recommendation. *Anderson v. City of Bessemer City*, 470 U.S. 564, 573-74 (1985) (quoting *United States v. U.S. Gypsum Co.*, 333 U.S. 364, 395 (1948)). Therefore, the court **accepts** Judge Zoss’s Report and Recommendation of May 4, 2010, and accepts defendant’s plea of guilty in this case to Counts 1, 2, and 3 of the Information.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 26th day of May, 2010.



MARK W. BENNETT
U. S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA