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Mesoscale Discussion 866

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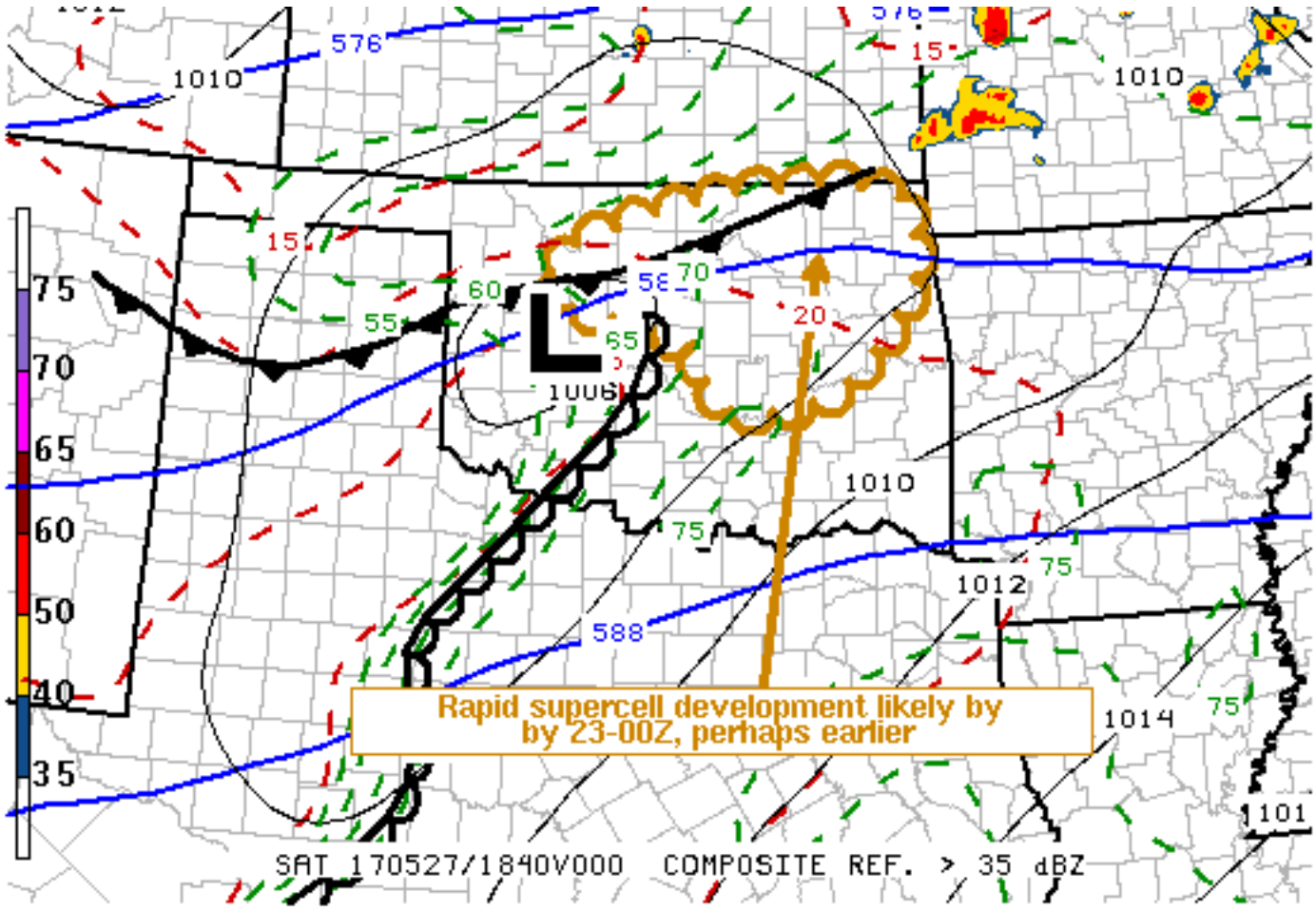

SPC MCD #0866

Mesoscale Discussion 0866
NWS Storm Prediction Center Norman OK
0204 PM CDT Sat May 27 2017

Areas affected...Northern and eastern Oklahoma

Concerning...Severe potential...Watch likely

Valid 271904Z - 272030Z

Probability of Watch Issuance...95 percent

SUMMARY...A tornado watch probably will be issued by 20-21Z. Rapid supercell development appears likely by around 23-00Z, if not before, particularly near the Tulsa area.

DISCUSSION...The latest objective mesoanalysis suggests that inhibition for boundary layer parcels is at least beginning to weaken in response to insolation along the surface frontal zone now extending across northern Oklahoma. More substantive weakening of inhibition appears likely to await the southward suppression of

mid-level heights and the northern periphery of the plume of very warm elevated mixed layer air, as coupled impulses within the mid-latitude and subtropical westerlies continue to emerge from the southern Rockies. The latest Rapid Refresh, among other model output, suggests that this may not occur until closer to, or perhaps after, 23-00Z. However, convective initiation seems at least possible earlier.

Regardless, once the cap weakens, thunderstorm development will be rapid, in the presence of strong to extreme CAPE (in excess of 4000 J/kg) and strong deep layer shear. This probably will at least initially include the risk for supercells, with potential for very large hail and a couple of tornadoes, particularly on the nose of the corridor of strongest pre-frontal surface heating, roughly in the vicinity of Tulsa. Additional, isolated supercell development may not be out of the question, farther southwest along the Interstate 44 corridor near the Oklahoma City area.

..Kerr.. 05/27/2017

...Please see www.spc.noaa.gov for graphic product...

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