**Translation Practice B**

1. **To think about:**
2. What do you know about nuclear energy (NE)?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy?

*(For more information about NE, check out the link provided in our Virtual Classroom.)*

1. **Translate the following text.**

**Dangers of Nuclear Power Plants**

There are many dangers in the use of nuclear power plants. The most prominent of these dangers include nuclear meltdowns; however, a variety of other problems can arise. There have been a number of situations in which these dangers have become real disasters, giving birth to safety and regulatory agencies.

While nuclear power plants offer a substantial source of power, there are a wide variety of dangers associated with the use of nuclear power. These dangers have created a general fear of nuclear power plants across the United States and much of the world. Nuclear power plants are dangerous from the initial mining operations to gather uranium all the way through the final stages of disposing the byproducts safely. Many scientists are attempting to address these dangers; however, the risks are still prevalent in the technology.

The greatest fear about nuclear power plants is a severe accident in the nuclear reactor. When the whole system or an individual component of a nuclear power plant causes the reactor core to malfunction, it is known as a nuclear meltdown. This occurs most commonly when the sealed nuclear fuel assemblies that house the radioactive materials begin to overheat and melt. If the meltdown becomes too severe, the radioactive elements within the core can be released into the atmosphere and around the area of the power plant. These radioactive materials are highly toxic to all organic life. Because of the geometric design of the reactor cores, a nuclear explosion is impossible; nevertheless, smaller explosions such as the release of steam are possible.